

The Honorable James L. Robart

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

RICHARD B. EDMONDS, derivatively on  
behalf of nominal defendant Getty Images,  
Inc.,

Plaintiff,

v.

MARK H. GETTY, JONATHAN D. KLEIN,  
A.D. ALBERS, JAMES N. BAILEY, JEFF  
BEYLE, M. LEWIS BLACKWELL, NICK  
EVANS-LOMBE, JOHN Z. FERGUSON,  
ANDREW S. GARB, JIM GURKE,  
ELIZABETH J. HUEBNER, SCOTT A.  
MISKIMENS, WILLIAM O'NEILL,  
STEPHEN M. POWELL, CHRISTOPHER J.  
ROLING, CHRISTOPHER H. SPORBORG,  
SALLY VON BARGEN, and WARWICK K.  
WOODHOUSE,

Defendants,

and

GETTY IMAGES, INC.,

Nominal Defendant.

No. C 07-0317 JLR

**AMENDED SHAREHOLDER  
VERIFIED DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 Plaintiff, Richard B. Edmonds, (Plaintiff”), by the undersigned attorneys, derivatively on  
 2 behalf of Getty Images, Inc. (“Getty Images” or the “Company”) allege upon personal  
 3 knowledge as to himself and his own acts, and upon information and belief as to all other  
 4 matters, based upon, *inter alia*, the investigation conducted by and through Plaintiff’s attorneys,  
 5 which included, among other things, a review of Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”)   
 6 filings, news reports, press releases, and other publicly available documents regarding Getty  
 7 Images.

### 8 NATURE OF THE ACTION

9 1. This is a shareholder’s derivative action brought for the benefit of nominal  
 10 defendant Getty Images against certain members of its Board of Directors (the “Board”) and  
 11 certain of its executive officers seeking to remedy defendants’ breaches of fiduciary duties,  
 12 unjust enrichment, statutory violations, and other violations of law relating to the “backdating”  
 13 of stock option grants to Getty Images insiders.

14 2. From April 1999 to February 2002, a majority of Getty Images directors, together  
 15 with its top officers, engaged in a secret scheme to grant undisclosed, in-the-money stock options  
 16 to themselves and others by backdating stock option grants to coincide with historically low  
 17 prices of Getty Images common stock. Indeed, in a striking pattern, 21 out of 25 discretionary  
 18 grants made from April 1999 to February 2002 coincided with historically low prices – eight of  
 19 the grants were purportedly made at or near the *lowest price of the fiscal year* and fourteen were  
 20 made at or near the *lowest price of the fiscal quarter*.

21 3. This action seeks redress for the harm done to Getty Images, and indirectly to its  
 22 stockholders, resulting from the self-dealing of certain of the Company’s top executives and  
 23 directors who breached their fiduciary duties of loyalty and good faith to the Company by  
 24 intentionally manipulating Getty Images stock option grants between April 1999 and February  
 25 2002. As a result of their misconduct, these top executives and directors have secured a huge  
 26 windfall for themselves at the expense of Getty Images and caused the misstatement of Getty  
 27 Images’ financial results from the Company’s fiscal year 1999 through the present. In fact, the

1 Company restated its historical financial statements to account for over **\$27 million** in additional  
2 compensation expenses.

3 4. These key executives and directors backdated stock option grants in order to  
4 exercise the stock option grants at a lower strike price, thus pocketing more money than they  
5 were otherwise entitled to receive. A stock option granted to an employee or director of the  
6 Company allows the employee or director to purchase Company stock at a specified price –  
7 referred to as the “exercise price” – for a specified period of time. Stock options are typically  
8 granted as part of an employee’s or director’s compensation package to create incentives for him  
9 or her to boost profitability and the Company’s stock value. When an employee or director  
10 exercises an option, he or she purchases the stock from the Company at the exercise price,  
11 regardless of the stock price at the time the option is exercised. Option pricing is based on the  
12 price of the Company’s common stock on the day of the grant. If an option is backdated to a day  
13 on which the market price was lower than the price on the day the option is granted, as Getty  
14 Images has admitted was the case here, then the employee or director pays less for the stock  
15 option. Consequently, the Company gets less money for the stock when the option is exercised.

16 5. As demonstrated below, these perfectly-timed option grants could not have been  
17 the result of mere coincidence. They were, in fact, the result of improper and opportunistic  
18 option granting practices. Because the Company failed to comply with the Generally Accepted  
19 Accounting Principles (“GAAP”) governing the expensing of stock option grants, the backdating  
20 scheme had a material effect on Getty Images’ financial statements from 1999 through the  
21 present. As explained *infra*, to the extent the Company failed to record, as a compensation  
22 expense, the difference between the price of Getty Images stock on the date of the actual grant  
23 and the “backdated” exercise price of the options, this deliberate omission resulted in the  
24 material understatement of the Company’s reported compensation expense and a material  
25 overstatement of its reported net income throughout the relevant period.

26 6. The backdating practices directed by defendants rendered materially false and  
27 misleading each of the Company’s annual proxy statements to shareholders, which purported to

1 set forth the true amount and type of compensation of its most highly-compensated executives,  
2 as required by rules promulgated by the SEC. The practice of backdating also rendered the  
3 defendants' statements regarding the Company's executive and director stock-based  
4 compensation, contained in Getty Images' annual reports and annual proxy statements,  
5 materially false and misleading.

6 7. The secret practice of backdating stock options was exposed on March 18, 2006,  
7 when *The Wall Street Journal* published an article entitled "The Perfect Payday," which  
8 described stock option backdating practices by a number of companies where their executives  
9 had achieved extremely fortuitous stock option paydays -- the likelihood of which defied random  
10 chance. *The Wall Street Journal*, together with Erik Lie, a professor at Tippie College of  
11 Business at the University of Iowa, David Yermack, a professor at New York University Stern  
12 School of Business, and John Emerson, a professor at Yale University, studied patterns of  
13 particularly favorable stock grants at certain companies and calculated the probability of such  
14 patterns occurring randomly and concluded that the odds were improbable.

15 8. This practice of backdating stock options, though widespread, remained virtually  
16 undetected until such academic research revealed patterns of stock option grants that could not  
17 be explained by chance. These studies noted the frequency with which stock option grants  
18 occurred just after a drop in stock price and immediately before a significant increase in stock  
19 price, often at the lowest price of the year. Such timing could not be statistically explained by  
20 random selection of grant dates. One study hypothesized that the dates of the grants had been  
21 selected retroactively. Such retroactive dating, or "backdating," would permit the grantor to  
22 select the most advantageous price for the stock option and to effectively grant "in-the-money"  
23 stock options (where the exercise price of the option is lower than the stock price on the date of  
24 grant) that appeared to be granted when the stock price was at a historical low. Since companies  
25 are required to report in-the-money grants as compensation to the recipient and as a charge to the  
26 corporation, the practice of backdating would provide a means to confer additional stock value,  
27



1 or compensation, to officers and employees that was not detectable, thereby permitting Company  
2 insiders to conceal the additional compensation and forego reporting or recording the charge.

3 9. Former SEC Chairman Harvey L. Pitt was quoted saying “[w]hat’s so terrible  
4 about backdating options grants? For one thing, it likely renders a company’s proxy materials  
5 false and misleading. Proxies typically indicate that options are granted at fair market value.  
6 But if the grant is backdated, the options value isn’t fair – at least not from the vantage point of  
7 the company and its shareholders.” Deputy Attorney General Paul J. McNulty has described the  
8 practice of stock option backdating “as a brazen abuse of corporate power.” The Chairman of  
9 the Banking, Housing Urban Affairs Committee of the United States Senate, Senator Richard  
10 Shelby, has also stated that manipulation of options grant dates is a “*black-and-white example of*  
11 *securities fraud.*”

12 10. SEC Chairman Christopher Cox was quoted, saying “[Backdating options] isn’t a  
13 question about ‘Whoops, I may have (accidentally) crossed a line here’ . . . It’s a question of  
14 knowingly betting on a race that’s already been run.” He has also announced that “[backdating  
15 in many cases] makes a hash of (companies’) financial statements . . . [and is] poisonous [to  
16 efficient markets]. . . . It is securities fraud if you falsify books and records. It is securities fraud  
17 if you present financial statements to the SEC that do not comply with generally accepted  
18 accounting principles. There is no requirement that (the defendant) personally profit [to prove  
19 that a crime occurred.]” He has further stated, “[r]ather obviously, this fact pattern [of  
20 backdating options] results in a violation of the SEC’s disclosure rules, a violation of accounting  
21 rules, and also a violation of the tax laws.” The Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service  
22 (“IRS”) Mark Everson agreed and has further stated, “[p]icking a date on which the stock price  
23 was low in comparison with the current price gives the employee the largest potential for gain on  
24 the option and makes it possible for the employee to benefit from corporate performance that  
25 occurred before the option was granted.”

26 11. In addition to the foregoing, a recent academic study revealed that outside  
27 directors of companies were also benefiting from backdating and were recipients of manipulated

1 stock option grants, as detailed in *The Wall Street Journal* article published on December 18,  
2 2006 below:

3 A new academic study suggests that many outside directors received  
4 manipulated stock-option grants, a finding that may help explain why the  
5 practice of options backdating wasn't stopped by the boards of some  
6 companies.

7 The statistical study, which names no individuals or firms, estimates that  
8 1,400 outside directors at 460 companies received questionable option  
9 grants, suggesting the widespread practice extended well beyond the  
10 executive suite.

11 The study is notable because it suggests that outside, or independent,  
12 directors -- who are supposed to play a special role safeguarding against  
13 cozy board relationships with management -- may have been co-opted in  
14 options backdating by receiving manipulated grants themselves. The New  
15 York Stock Exchange requires that a majority of board seats, and all  
16 compensation- and audit-committee members, be independent . . . .

17 The evidence "contributes to understanding the possible factors that led to  
18 or enabled manipulation to occur," states the unpublished study, which  
19 was conducted by professors at Harvard and Cornell universities and the  
20 French business school Insead . . . .

21 12. According to an August 26, 2007 article in the *National Law Journal* entitled  
22 "Lawyers Fly Blind on Options Penalties," the stock options backdating scandal has produced 16  
23 criminal prosecutions, 220 companies that have been subject to internal or federal investigations  
24 and 100 corporate earnings restatements totaling approximately \$12.4 billion.

25 13. Getty Images is one of the many companies that have been subject to both an  
26 internal investigation and SEC investigation involving options backdating at the Company.  
27 After the internal investigation was completed, the Company *admitted that past option grants*  
*were "improperly dated" and that the Company would be required to restate financial data.*  
Specifically, the Company has determined that "it is necessary to revise the measurement dates  
for approximately 3,700 . . . grants, covering grants made on approximately 130 occasions." On  
June 13, 2007, the Company filed its fiscal 2006 financial report and the first and second quarter

1 amended reports, which were adjusted to account for additional compensation expenses totaling  
2 *over \$27 million.*

3 14. In addition to being unjustly enriched by the receipt of backdated options, from  
4 February 25, 1999 to January 20, 2006, Defendants Garb, Getty, Klein and Sporborg, while in  
5 possession of materially adverse non-public information regarding the backdating of stock  
6 options and the false financial statements resulting therefrom, sold approximately 3.1 million  
7 shares of Getty Images stock and collectively realized *total proceeds of over \$169 million*, a  
8 significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock  
9 options. Furthermore, Getty Image's executives were also overpaid cash bonuses based on  
10 inflated earnings, which created an inflated market capitalization for Getty Images common  
11 stock.

12 15. As alleged in detail herein, in gross breach of their fiduciary duties as officers  
13 and/or directors of Getty Images, defendants intentionally colluded with one another to:

- 14 a. improperly backdate multiple grants of Getty Images stock options to several  
15 Getty Images executives and directors, in violation of the Company's  
16 shareholder-approved stock option plans;
- 17 b. improperly record and account for the backdated stock options, in violation of  
18 GAAP;
- 19 c. improperly take tax deductions based on the backdated stock options, in violation  
20 of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 162(m) ("Section  
21 162(m)");
- 22 d. produce and disseminate false financial statements and other false SEC filings to  
23 Getty Images shareholders and the market that improperly recorded and  
24 accounted for the backdated option grants and concealed the improper backdating  
25 of stock options; and
- 26 e. improperly cause Getty Images to violate applicable federal and state laws, rules,  
27 and regulations requiring the dissemination of accurate financial statements and  
restricting the misuse of material non-public information.

16. By engaging in this scheme, defendants were able to conceal that Getty Images  
was not accounting for its compensation expenses properly and was materially overstating the



1 Company's net income and earnings for 1999 through the present. In addition to the serious and  
 2 adverse tax consequences resulting from the Company's failure to record the appropriate non-  
 3 cash stock-based compensation expenses, Getty Images faces millions in costs associated with  
 4 the review by the Special Committee of the Board (the "Special Committee") and the related  
 5 restatements.

6 17. This action states derivative claims for the defendants' violations of Sections  
 7 10(b), 14(a) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act and SEC Rule 10b-5. This action also seeks  
 8 disgorgement of bonuses or other incentive-based or equity-based compensation received by the  
 9 defendants who also received backdated options, and for any profits realized from their sale of  
 10 Getty Images stock, pursuant to Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

11 18. As a result of defendants' secret scheme to backdate options and issue false and  
 12 misleading statements to conceal such backdating, Getty Images has sustained millions of dollars  
 13 in damages, including damage to its reputation and loss of goodwill in general, exposure to an  
 14 adverse opinion by its outside auditors and considerable financial cost in having to review and  
 15 restate previously issued financial statements. Moreover, Getty Images has been exposed to civil  
 16 liability and potential regulatory fines by the SEC and IRS for failure to pay or withhold taxes.  
 17 Meanwhile, the recipients of the backdated stock options -- top executives and directors at Getty  
 18 Images -- have garnered millions of dollars in unlawful profits at the expense of the Company.

#### 19 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

20 19. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 in that  
 21 this Complaint states a federal question. This Court also has jurisdiction over this action  
 22 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(2) in that Plaintiff and Defendants are citizens of different states  
 23 and the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interests and costs. This Court  
 24 has supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims asserted herein pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
 25 §1367(a). This action is not a collusive one to confer jurisdiction on a court of the United States  
 26 which it would not otherwise have.

27 20. Venue is proper in this district because a substantial portion of the transactions



and wrongs complained of herein, including the defendants' primary participation in the wrongful acts detailed herein, occurred in this district. One or more of the defendants either resides in or maintains executive offices in this district, and defendants have received substantial compensation in this district by engaging in numerous activities and conducting business here, which had an effect in this district.

### **PARTIES**

21. Plaintiff Edmonds is a shareholder of Getty Images, was a shareholder of Getty Images at the time of the wrongdoing alleged herein, and has been a shareholder of Getty Images continuously since that time. Plaintiff Edmonds is a citizen of the State of Pennsylvania.

22. Nominal defendant, Getty Images, is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices located at 601 North 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA 98103. According to its public filings, Getty Images is a leading creator and distributor of visual content.

### **Defendant Getty**

23. Defendant Mark H. Getty ("Getty") is a co-founder of Getty Images and has served as a director and as Chairman of the Board since February 1998.

24. Upon information and belief, Getty received approximately the following as compensation, not including stock option grants:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
2005	\$123,003
2004	\$137,099
2003	\$564,616
2002	\$482,775 salary
2001	\$460,889 salary
2000	\$481,292 salary and \$500,000 bonus
1999	\$343,904 salary and \$224,250 bonus

25. Upon information and belief, Defendant Getty received 915,000 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

Purported grant date	# of Options	Exercise price
10/22/99	15,000	\$19.07
04/28/00	400,000	\$30.32
05/24/00	400,000	\$28.63
03/30/01	50,000	\$16.85
10/15/01	50,000	\$12.41

26. From 2003 to 2006, Defendant Getty sold 1,407,635 shares of Getty Images stock with total proceeds of \$76,183,332.60, a significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

27. Upon information and belief, Getty is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant Klein**

28. Defendant Jonathan D. Klein ("Klein") is a co-founder of Getty Images and has served as Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and as a director since February 1998. Klein has served as the only member of the Stock Option Committee of the Board, later renamed the Equity Compensation Committee (the "Stock Option Committee") since its formation in July 2001 until its dissolution in 2007.

29. Upon information and belief, Klein received approximately the following as compensation, not including stock option grants:

Fiscal Year	Compensation
2006	\$950,000
2005	\$950,000 salary and \$691,600 bonus
2004	\$962,500 salary and \$828,208 bonus
2003	\$1,100,000 salary and \$325,000 bonus
2002	\$1,100,000 salary and \$420,000 bonus
2001	\$625,000 salary
2000	\$463,177 salary
1999	\$355,976 salary and \$224,250 bonus

30. Upon information and belief, Klein received 1,317,000 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

Purported grant date	# of options	Exercise price
10/22/99	15,000	\$19.07
04/28/00	400,000	\$30.32
05/24/00	400,000	\$28.63
03/30/01	50,000	\$16.85
05/07/01	232,000	\$25.43
06/26/01	170,000	\$25.43
10/15/01	50,000	\$12.41

31. Upon information and belief, Klein is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant Sporborg**

32. Defendant Christopher H. Sporborg ("Sporborg") has served as a director of the Company and as a member of the Compensation Committee of the Board (the "Compensation Committee") since February 1998 and served as a director of Getty Communications Limited from May 1996 to February 1998. Defendant Sporborg also served as a member of the Audit Committee of the Board (the "Audit Committee") from 1998 to 2004.

33. Upon information and belief, Sporborg received an option grant dated July 23, 2001 to purchase at least 8,333 shares of Getty Images common stock at the exercise price of \$15.80. Moreover, from 2004 to 2005, Defendant Sporborg sold 9,583 shares of Getty Images stock with total proceeds of \$577,309.86, a significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

34. Upon information and belief, Sporborg is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant Bailey**

35. Defendant James N. Bailey ("Bailey") has served as a director of Getty Images and as a member of the Compensation Committee and the Audit Committee since February 1998. Bailey also served as a director of Getty Communications Limited from September 1996 to February 1998.

36. Upon information and belief, Bailey is a citizen of the State of Washington.

**Defendant Garb**

37. Defendant Andrew S. Garb ("Garb") has served as a director of the Company and as a member of the Compensation Committee since February 1998. Garb also served as a director of Getty Communications Limited from May 1996 to February 1998. He has also served as a member of the Audit Committee from 1998 to 2002 and since 2005. Garb is currently of counsel to the law firm of Loeb & Loeb LLP, where he was managing partner from 1986 to 1992.

38. Upon information and belief, Garb is a citizen of the State of Washington.

**Defendant Albers**

39. Defendant A.D. Albers ("Albers") served as the Company's Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer from October 1999 to March 2003.

40. Upon information and belief, Defendant Albers received approximately the following as compensation, not including stock option grants:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
2002	\$260,000 salary and \$100,000 bonus
2001	\$275,000 salary
2000	\$248,542 salary and \$137,500 bonus
1999	\$44,128 salary and \$17,500 bonus

41. Upon information and belief, Defendant Albers received 95,000 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

<b>Purported grant date</b>	<b># of options</b>	<b>Exercise price</b>
08/28/00	25,000	\$40.41
10/11/00	25,000	\$24.78
03/30/01	25,000	\$16.85
10/15/01	20,000	\$12.41

42. From November 1, 2002 to March 4, 2003 Defendant Albers sold 51,771 shares of Getty Images stock with total proceeds of \$1,525,407.73, a significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

43. Upon information and belief, Albers is a citizen of the State of Washington.



**Defendant Beyle**

44. Defendant Jeff Beyle ("Beyle") has served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Getty Images since November 2000.

45. Upon information and belief, Defendant Beyle received approximately the following as compensation, not including stock option grants:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
2005	\$290,000 salary and \$120,640 bonus
2004	\$290,000 salary and \$141,520 bonus
2003	\$282,500 salary and \$102,080 bonus
2002	\$260,000 salary and \$100,000 bonus
2001	\$248,750 salary
2000	\$22,705 salary and \$15,000 bonus

46. Upon information and belief, Defendant Beyle received 63,500 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

<b>Purported grant date</b>	<b># of options</b>	<b>Exercise price</b>
03/30/01	18,500	\$16.85
07/17/01	25,000	\$16.94
10/15/01	20,000	\$12.41

47. From October 27, 2003 to October 25, 2005, Defendant Beyle sold 138,500 shares of Getty Images stock with total proceeds of \$9,364,596.00, a portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

48. Upon information and belief, Beyle is a citizen of the State of Washington.

**Defendant Blackwell**

49. Defendant M. Lewis Blackwell ("Blackwell") served as Getty Images' Senior Vice President, Creative Customers from September 2003 to 2006 and as its Senior Vice President, Creative Direction from July 2001 to September 2003.

50. Upon information and belief, Defendant Blackwell received approximately the following as compensation, not including stock option grants:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
2004	\$312,913 salary and \$147,352
2003	\$264,468 salary and \$105,428
2002	\$231,000 salary and \$75,000 bonus
2001	\$221,760 salary

51. Upon information and belief, Defendant Blackwell received an option grant dated October 15, 2001 to purchase 10,000 shares of Getty Images common stock at the exercise price of \$12.41. On May 27, 2003, Defendant Blackwell sold 10,000 shares of Getty Images stock with total proceeds of \$376,400.00, a significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

52. Upon information and belief, Blackwell is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant Evans-Lombe**

53. Defendant Nick Evans-Lombe ("Evans-Lombe") has served as the Company's Senior Vice President, Images and Services since August 2004. Evans-Lombe also served as its Senior Vice President, Editorial Customers from September 2003 to July 2004, its Senior Vice President, Editorial from January 2002 to September 2003, its Senior Vice President, Strategy and Corporate Development from February 1998 to January 2002, and Director of Strategy and Corporate Development of Getty Communications Limited, its predecessor, from February 1996 to February 1998.

54. Upon information and belief, Defendant Evans-Lombe received approximately the following as compensation, not including stock option grants:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
2006	\$350,750 committee fees and \$30,000 bonus
2004	\$240,000 salary and \$119,040 bonus
2003	\$238,750 salary and \$89,000 bonus
2002	\$235,000 salary and \$66,000 bonus

55. Upon information and belief, Defendant Evans-Lombe received 140,000 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

Purported grant date	# of options	Exercise price
05/04/99	30,000	\$26.82
07/27/99	30,000	\$18.44
10/22/99	15,000	\$19.07
03/30/01	20,000	\$16.85
10/15/01	20,000	\$12.41
02/05/02	25,000	\$19.43

56. From January 2, 2003 to August 26, 2005, Defendant Evans-Lombe sold 118,355 shares of Getty Images stock with total proceeds of \$6,644,231.85, a significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

57. Upon information and belief, Evans-Lombe is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant Ferguson**

58. Defendant John Z. Ferguson ("Ferguson") served as Getty Images' Senior Vice President, Sales, Americas, and held other senior vice president positions at the Company from at least 1999 to 2005.

59. Upon information and belief, Defendant Ferguson received 31,400 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

Purported grant date	# of options	Exercise price
08/03/99	3,500	\$18.33
10/22/99	7,500	\$19.07
02/01/00	400	\$38.63
03/30/01	10,000	\$16.85
10/09/01	10,000	\$12.82

60. From November 11, 2003 to July 29, 2005, Defendant Ferguson sold 51,500 shares of Getty Images stock with total proceeds of \$3,348,535.00, a portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

61. Upon information and belief, Ferguson is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant Gurke**

62. Defendant Jim Gurke ("Gurke") has served as the Company's Senior Vice

1 President, Human Resources and Chief of Staff since July 2004 and previously served as its Vice  
 2 President of New Revenues from December 2003 to July 2004, as its Vice President of Sales,  
 3 Americas from October 2002 to August 2002, and as its Vice President of Sales and Marketing  
 4 from 1999 to 2002.

5 63. Upon information and belief, Defendant Gurke received 35,900 backdated Getty  
 6 Images stock options, as shown below:

Purported grant date	# of options	Exercise price
08/03/99	3,000	\$18.33
10/22/99	7,500	\$19.07
02/01/00	400	\$38.63
03/30/01	15,000	\$16.85
10/09/01	10,000	\$12.82

12 64. From November 11, 2003 to January 3, 2006, Defendant Gurke sold 1,407,635  
 13 shares of Getty Images stock with total proceeds of \$76,183,332.60, a portion of which was  
 14 obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

15 65. Upon information and belief, Gurke is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### 16 **Defendant Huebner**

17 66. Defendant Elizabeth J. Huebner ("Huebner") served as Getty Images' Senior Vice  
 18 President and Chief Financial Officer from October 2000 to early 2006.

19 67. Upon information and belief, Defendant Huebner received approximately the  
 20 following as compensation, not including stock option grants:

Fiscal Year	Compensation
2006	\$187,500 salary
2005	\$392,500 salary and \$208,000 bonus
2004	\$370,000 salary and \$229,400 bonus
2003	\$361,250 salary and \$181,300 bonus
2002	\$335,000 salary and \$185,000 bonus
2001	\$312,500 salary
2000	\$74,178 salary and \$41,250 bonus



68. Upon information and belief, Defendant Huebner received: (i) an option grant dated March 30, 2001 to purchase 35,000 shares of Getty Images common stock at the exercise price of \$16.85, and (ii) an option grant dated October 15, 2001 to purchase 20,000 shares of Getty Images common stock at the exercise price of \$12.41.

69. From October 27, 2003 to May 16, 2006, Defendant Huebner sold 257,917 shares of Getty Images stock with total proceeds of \$16,071,192.23, a portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

70. Upon information and belief, Huebner is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant Miskimens**

71. Defendant Scott A. Miskimens ("Miskimens") served as the Company's Senior Vice President, Technology and Content from December 2003 to 2004, as its Senior Vice President, Technology, Content and Artist Operations from January 2003 to December 2003, as its Senior Vice President, Content and Artist Operations, from November 2002 to January 2003, and as its Vice President, Technology Services from January 2000 to November 2002.

72. Upon information and belief, Defendant Miskimens received 28,944 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

Purported grant date	# of options	Exercise price
05/30/00	10,000	\$29.10
03/30/01	9,375	\$16.85
07/17/01	5,569	\$16.94
10/09/01	4,000	\$12.82

73. From May 16, 2003 to February 12, 2004, Defendant Miskimens sold 14,284 shares with total proceeds of \$586,154.04, a significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

74. Upon information and belief, Miskimens is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant O' Neill**

75. Defendant William O'Neill ("O'Neill") has been the Senior Vice President of

Human Resources of the Company from April 2000 to December 2002.

76. Upon information and belief, Defendant O'Neill received an option grant dated March 30, 2001 to purchase 30,000 shares of Getty Images common stock at the exercise price of \$16.85.

77. Upon information and belief, O'Neill is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant Powell**

78. Defendant Stephen M. Powell ("Powell") served as Getty Images' President of the Press and Editorial Division from 1998 to 2001.

79. Upon information and belief, Defendant Powell received 90,000 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

Purported grant date	# of options	Exercise price
04/09/99	50,000	\$23.32
07/06/99	25,000	\$18.32
10/22/99	15,000	\$19.07

80. Upon information and belief, Powell is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant Roling**

81. Defendant Christopher J. Roling ("Roling") served as the Company's Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer from January 1999 to May 2000.

82. Upon information and belief, Defendant Roling received 28,000 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

Purported grant date	# of options	Exercise price
05/04/99	10,000	\$26.82
08/03/99	3,000	\$18.33
10/22/99	15,000	\$19.07

83. Upon information and belief, Roling is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant von Bargaen**

84. Defendant Sally von Bargaen ("von Bargaen") served as the Company's Senior

Vice President and Director of Marketing from February 2001 to December 2001 and as the President of Creative Professional Division of Getty Images from July 1999 to February 2001.

85. Upon information and belief, Defendant von Barga received 135,000 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

Purported grant date	# of options	Exercise price
04/09/99	75,000	\$23.32
10/22/99	40,000	\$19.07
03/30/01	20,000	\$16.85

86. Upon information and belief, von Barga is a citizen of the State of Washington.

#### **Defendant Woodhouse**

87. Defendant Warwick K. Woodhouse ("Woodhouse"), served as Getty Images' Senior Vice President, Organizational Development from May 2003 to 2004. He also served as its Senior Vice President, Operations and Logistics from September 2000 to August 2002, as its Senior Vice President, Planning from February 1998 to September 2000, and as the Group Planning Director of Getty Communications Limited from October 1996 to February 1998.

88. Upon information and belief, Defendant Woodhouse received 92,000 backdated Getty Images stock options, as shown below:

Purported grant date	# of options	Exercise price
10/25/99	2,000	\$19.38
10/11/00	25,000	\$24.78
03/30/01	30,000	\$16.85
07/17/01	25,000	\$16.94
10/15/01	10,000	\$12.41

89. From May 15, 2003 to August 31, 2004, Defendant Woodhouse sold 105,500 shares of Getty Images stock with total proceeds of \$4,909,275.00, a significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.

90. Upon information and belief, Woodhouse is a citizen of the State of Washington.

**Individual Defendants**

91. Collectively, defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey, Garb, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargen and Woodhouse are referred to herein as the "Individual Defendants."

**DUTIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS**

92. By reason of their positions as officers and/or directors of the Company and because of their ability to control the business and corporate affairs of the Company, the Individual Defendants, particularly Getty, Klein and Compensation Committee members Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, owed the Company and its shareholders the fiduciary obligations of good faith, trust, loyalty and due care, and were and are required to use their utmost ability to control and manage the Company in a fair, just, honest and equitable manner. The Individual Defendants were and are required to act in furtherance of the best interests of the Company and its shareholders so as to benefit all shareholders equally and not in furtherance of their personal interest or benefit. Each director and officer of the Company owes to the Company and its shareholders the fiduciary duty to exercise good faith and diligence in the administration of the affairs of the Company and in the use and preservation of its property and assets, and the highest obligations of fair dealing.

93. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb, because of their positions of control and authority as directors and/or officers of the Company, were able to and did, directly and/or indirectly, exercise control over the wrongful acts complained of herein.

94. To discharge their duties, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb, as the officers and directors of the Company, were required to exercise reasonable and prudent supervision over the management, policies, practices and controls of the Company. By virtue of such duties, the officers and directors of the Company were required to, among other things:

- a. exercise good faith in ensuring that the affairs of the Company were conducted in an efficient, business-like manner so as to make it possible to provide the highest quality performance of its business;



- b. exercise good faith in ensuring that the Company was operated in a diligent, honest and prudent manner and complied with all applicable federal and state laws, rules, regulations and requirements, including acting only within the scope of its legal authority;
- c. exercise good faith in supervising the preparation, filing and/or dissemination of financial statements, press releases, audits, reports, or other information required by law, and in examining and evaluating any reports or examinations, audits, or other financial information concerning the financial condition of the Company;
- d. exercise good faith in ensuring that the Company's financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP; and
- e. refrain from unduly benefiting themselves and other Company insiders at the expense of the Company.

95. The Individual Defendants, particularly Getty and Klein, and Audit Committee members Sporborg, Bailey and Garb, were responsible for maintaining and establishing adequate internal accounting controls for the Company and to ensure that the Company's financial statements were based on accurate financial information. According to GAAP, to accomplish the objectives of accurately recording, processing, summarizing and reporting financial data, a corporation must establish an internal accounting control structure. Among other things, the Individual Defendants were required to:

- a. make and keep books, records and accounts, which, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the issuer; and
- b. devise and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurances that –
  1. transactions are executed in accordance with management's general or specific authorization; and
  2. transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with [GAAP].

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AUDIT, COMPENSATION,  
AND STOCK OPTION COMMITTEES**

96. The standing committees of the Board include: (i) the Audit Committee; (ii) the Compensation Committee; and (iii) Stock Option Committee

97. These Committees set the policies which admittedly permitted the backdating of options to occur.

**Compensation Committee**

98. The following directors served on the Compensation Committee of the Getty Images Board at certain times during the relevant period:

<b>Compensation Committee</b>									
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Bailey</b>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
<b>Garb</b>	M	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<b>Sporborg</b>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
<b>M=Member; C=Chairman of Committee</b>									

99. According to the Company's Compensation Committee Charter, the Compensation Committee's responsibilities include, among other things:

- a. Review and approve corporate goals and objectives relevant to the Chief Executive Officer's compensation, evaluate the Chief Executive Officer's performance in light of those goals and objectives, and, either as a committee or together with the other independent directors (as directed by the Board), determine and approve the Chief Executive Officer's compensation level based on this evaluation;
- b. Either as a Committee or together with the other independent directors, as directed by the Board, determine and approve non-Chief Executive Officer Executive Officer compensation and incentive-compensation and equity-based plans that are subject to Board approval, including, but not limited to, base salaries, annual and other incentive awards, stock options and other equity-based compensation, deferred compensation, retirement benefits, special benefits, executive perquisites and employment/severance contracts;
- c. Administer the [Option] Plan in a manner that is not inconsistent with the terms and provisions of such plan, construe all terms and provisions, conditions and

limitations to the [Option] Plan, and make all factual determinations required for the administration of the [Option]Plan; . . .

- d. Adopt and periodically review a comprehensive statement of compensation philosophy, strategy and principles for Executive Officers that has the support of management and the Board, and administer the Company's compensation program fairly and consistently within such principles; . . .
- e. The Chair (or other Committee member as designated by the Committee) shall meet annually with the Chief Executive Officer and any other members of management the Board and Committee members deem appropriate to discuss and review the performance criteria and compensation levels of key members of Executive Officers. . . .
- f. The Committee shall prepare a report to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement or Annual Report on Form 10-K, in accordance with applicable rules and regulations of the New York Stock Exchange, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other applicable regulatory bodies.
- g. The Committee also shall review and discuss with management the Company's executive compensation disclosure (including the Company's disclosures under "Compensation Discussion and Analysis") included in reports and registration statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### **Audit Committee**

100. The following directors served on the Audit Committee of the Board at certain times during the relevant period:

<b>Audit Committee</b>									
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Bailey</b>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
<b>Garb</b>	M	M	M	M	M			M	M
<b>Sporborg</b>	C	C	C	C	C	M	M		
<b>M=Member; C=Chairman of Committee</b>									

101. Getty Images' Audit Committee Charter provides that the Audit Committee shall, among other things:

- a. Discuss with management and the independent auditors the Company's annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements, including the Company's specific disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of



Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in the Company’s periodic filings and the report of the independent auditor on any audited financial statements.

- b. Review with management and the independent auditor the type and presentation of information to be included in earnings press releases, and discuss any financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts, investors and rating agencies. The Committee’s responsibility to discuss earnings releases, as well as financial information and earnings guidance, may be done generally (i.e., discussion of the types of information to be disclosed and the type of presentation to be made). The Committee need not discuss in advance each earnings release or each instance in which the Company may provide earnings guidance.
- c. Based on the review and discussions referred to in this Section, determine whether to recommend to the Board that the Company’s audited financial statements be included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the last fiscal year for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- d. Discuss with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61 (“SAS No. 61”), Communications with Audit Committees, SAS No. 89, Audit Adjustments, and SAS No. 90, Audit Committee Communications, as each is amended from time to time, together with any other matters as may be required or appropriate under applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- e. Review significant reserves, estimates and judgments by management, and the processes that provide the basis for the CEO and CFO to sign their quarterly certifications in the Company’s SEC filings.

#### Stock Option Committee

102. The Stock Option Committee was formed in July 2001 and was later renamed the Equity Compensation Committee. From its formation until its dissolution in 2007, the Stock Option Committee consisted of only one member, Defendant Klein. The Stock Option Committee was discontinued at the recommendation of the Special Committee in relation to its investigation of the Company’s stock option granting practices. According to Getty Images’ proxy statements, the Stock Option Committee “[was] responsible for the administration of the Amended and Restated Getty Images, Inc. 1998 Stock Incentive Plan for those employees who are not executive officers of the Company.” The Committee may act only within limits set by the Board of Directors.



## **BACKGROUND**

### **The Stock Option Backdating Scandal**

103. Under accounting rules in effect prior to 2004, public companies in the United States were permitted to grant stock options to employees without recording an expense, as long as the option's strike price was at or above the market's price for the stock on the day the options were granted. If the option granted was priced below the market price on the date granted (known as an in-the-money option grant), SEC regulations required that any publicly traded company recognize and record the difference as a compensation expense in its financial statements. *See, e.g.*, Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25 ("APB 25"), superseded in 2004 by FAS 123(R).<sup>1</sup> Accounting rules also required that companies recognize the same compensation expense if in-the-money options were granted to non-employees. Thus, while in-the-money stock options are more valuable to those to whom they are granted, the additional expenses, if disclosed, reduce the total amount of net income reported to shareholders of a publicly traded company.

104. In addition, pursuant to Section 162(m), compensation in excess of \$1 million per year, including gains on stock options, paid to a corporation's most highly compensated officers is tax deductible only if: (i) the compensation is payable solely on account of the attainment of one or more performance goals; (ii) the performance goals are determined by a compensation committee comprised solely of two or more outside directors; (iii) the material terms under which the compensation is to be paid, including the performance goals, are disclosed to shareholders and approved by a majority of the vote in a separate shareholder vote before the payment of the compensation; and (iv) before any payment of such compensation, the compensation committee certifies that the performance goals and any other material terms were

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to APB 25, the applicable GAAP provision at the time of the stock option grants enumerated herein, if the market price on the date of grant exceeds the exercise price of the options, the Company must recognize the difference as an expense.

1 in fact satisfied.

2 105. Since the date of *The Wall Street Journal* article which first revealed the unlawful  
3 practice of backdating stock options, more than 220 companies have reported internal and/or  
4 governmental investigations of their backdating practices. Additional research by Professor Lie  
5 suggests that between 1996 and 2005, 18.9% of unscheduled option grants to top executives  
6 were backdated or manipulated by nearly one-third of the companies investigated.

7 106. As the public scrutiny has intensified, backdating has been revealed not only as a  
8 practice to maximize the grant recipients' gain while concealing company expenses, but also as a  
9 tax avoidance vehicle for some executives. Reporting on an analysis written by an economist at  
10 the SEC, the *San Jose Mercury News* reported, "[i]n a new wrinkle in the scandal over  
11 backdating stock options, an analyst has found evidence that some executives manipulated the  
12 exercise dates of their options in order to cheat on their taxes." Marcy Gordon, SEC: Backdating  
13 Done to Avoid Paying More Taxes, *San Jose Mercury News*, December 13, 2006, available at  
14 [http://www.mercurynews.com/search/ci\\_4831931](http://www.mercurynews.com/search/ci_4831931).

15 107. Indeed, like the stock option grants examined by *The Wall Street Journal*, the  
16 pattern of option grants identified at Getty Images is more than randomly fortuitous, and the  
17 more likely reason for the extraordinary pattern is that the stock options were improperly  
18 backdated.

#### 19 Getty Images' Stock Option Plans

20 108. During the relevant period that defendants engaged in their secret scheme to  
21 backdate stock options, Getty Images had one stock option plan in effect, the 1998 Stock  
22 Incentive Plan (the "1998 Plan"), which has been amended several times since its adoption.

23 109. Under the 1998 Plan, those eligible to receive stock option awards are "officers or  
24 other key employees or consultants of the Company or a Subsidiary with the potential to  
25 contribute to the future success of the Company or its Subsidiaries." Each option grant was  
26 evidenced by a stock option agreement between the Company and the employee or consultant to  
27 whom such option was granted.

110. The Company's proxy statements also stated that the 1998 Plan was administered by the Compensation Committee.

111. The delegation of the Compensation Committee's authority to administer the 1998 Plan is permitted under the 1998 Plan but is limited as follows:

The Committee may, but need not, from time to time delegate some or all of its authority under the Plan to an Administrator consisting of one or more members of the Committee or of one or more officers of the Company; provided, however, that the Committee may not delegate its authority (i) to grant Awards to Eligible Individuals (A) who are subject on the date of the grant to the reporting rules under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, (B) who are Section 162(m) Participants or (C) who are officers of the Company who are delegated authority by the Committee hereunder, or (ii) under Sections 3(b) and 17 of the Plan . . . . Nothing in the Plan shall be construed as obligating the Committee to delegate authority to an Administrator, and the Committee may at any time rescind the authority delegated to an Administrator appointed hereunder or appoint a new Administrator.

112. Further, the exercise price of option grants under the 1998 Plan was determined by the Compensation Committee. Under the 1998 Plan, the exercise price of options must be "no less than 100% of the Fair Market Value per share on the date of grant," where fair market value is defined as "the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock on such exchange or such quotation on the date set for valuation."

113. According to the Company's proxy statements, at all times relevant hereto the Compensation Committee "review[ed] the compensation of the senior officers of the Company, including executive bonus plan allocations, and [was] responsible for the administration of the Amended and Restated Getty Images, Inc. 1998 Stock Incentive Plan for the executive officers of the Company."

### **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

#### **Backdating of Getty Images Stock Option Grants**

114. As discussed below, 21 out of 25 discretionary grant dates from April 1999 to February 2002 were backdated, and the pattern of grants was more than fortuitous – eight were made at or near the lowest price of the fiscal year, and fourteen were made at or near the lowest

1 price of the fiscal quarter.

2 115. Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("Merrill Lynch") published an analysis of options  
3 grants made at various companies in a report dated May 22, 2006 as further evidence that the  
4 returns enjoyed by options grantees at many companies were not by mere chance. The report  
5 analyzes the twenty day performance of each option grant reported in a company's proxy  
6 statements during the relevant backdating period. The analysis also calculates the annualized  
7 return of the option grants at twenty days after the grant and compares that annualized return  
8 with the company's overall annual return.

9 116. An application of the Merrill Lynch analysis for all of the stock grants disclosed  
10 in proxy statements from 1999 to 2001 further indicates that the grants were backdated as the  
11 vast discrepancies between the annualized management and annualized investors returns can  
12 only be explained by a practice of backdating. For example, the average annualized return to  
13 management on the option grants identified in the relevant proxy statements for calendar years  
14 1999 to 2001 is 317%, as compared to 38.62% average annualized return to investors – a  
15 difference of 278.37%.

16 117. From 1999 to 2006, the Compensation Committee and certain directors (Getty,  
17 Klein, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg) knowingly and deliberately violated the terms of the 1998  
18 Plan, APB 25 and Section 162(m) by knowingly and deliberately backdating grants of stock  
19 options to make it appear as though the grants were made on dates when the market price of  
20 Getty Images stock was lower than the market price on the actual grant dates, thereby unduly  
21 benefiting the recipients of the backdated options. Defendants Getty, Klein, Bailey, Garb and  
22 Sporborg knew that the publicly reported grant dates and statements that the Company followed  
23 APB 25 and granted options with exercise prices equal to the fair market value of Getty Images  
24 stock on the date of grant were false because the grants were in fact backdated. Defendants  
25 Getty, Klein, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knowingly and deliberately approved the backdating  
26 scheme with knowledge of its consequences, *e.g.*, its effects on Getty Images' financial  
27 statements, especially because Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were also on the Audit Committee and



1 reviewed and oversaw the filing of Getty Images' financial results.

2 118. Between 1999 and 2006, the defendants repeated in proxy statements that the  
3 stock option grants made during that period carried an exercise price that was equal the fair  
4 market value on the date of grant. However, until 2006, the defendants concealed that the stock  
5 option grants were repeatedly and consciously backdated to ensure that the strike price  
6 associated with the option grants was below fair market value. Upon information and belief, the  
7 Board members and the Compensation Committee members, including defendants Getty, Klein,  
8 Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, who issued the grants would review historical stock prices before  
9 issuing stock options to select a grant date when the stock prices was significantly below the  
10 current market price. They would then falsify the relevant documents to make it appear as if the  
11 stock options were granted on the earlier date.

12 119. As a result, the executive to whom the options were granted could realize the gain  
13 observed between the historical and actual grant date while the Company's records would appear  
14 to show no difference between the option price and the market price on the purported date of the  
15 grant, thereby avoiding both the reporting requirement and the additional compensation expense.

16 120. In addition, in order to maximize remuneration to its officers and employees, and  
17 to attract non-employee executives to the Company's ranks without impacting its reported  
18 income, the defendants engaged in a practice of backdating the issue date of stock options to  
19 certain key personnel and other Getty Images employees as admitted in the Company's April 16,  
20 2007 press release and financial statements filed on June 13, 2007.

21 121. According to the Company's Form 10-K for fiscal year 2006 filed with the SEC  
22 on June 13, 2007 (the "2006 Annual Report"), from 1996 to 1998, the Compensation Committee  
23 had the authority to, and did, grant options to employees, officers and directors.

24 122. Then, from August 1998 through 2001, the Compensation Committee continued  
25 to grant options to executive officers and created option "pools" from which defendant Klein and  
26 unnamed senior vice presidents were authorized to grant options to employees and non-executive  
27 officers.

123. According to the 2006 Annual Report, these pools were used by the executive officers to grant options in connection with the hiring and promotion of employees or as incentive awards.

124. The April 16, 2007 press release and the 2006 Annual Report stated that a total of 7,102 option grants and 1,062 RSUs grants were made on 465 occasions during the Relevant Period, as follows:

- “Pool options” in which “pools” of options were approved by the Compensation Committee for later grant to employees by executive officers (2,277 grants).
- “Acquisition option grants” in which options were granted by the Board of Directors or Compensation Committee to employees and officers in connection with the Company’s acquisition of other companies and in which outstanding options held by employees of acquired companies were exchanged for Getty Images options at pre-determined conversion ratios (1,464 grants).
- “Other option grants” which cover all remaining stock option grants during the Relevant Period (3,361 grants).
- “RSU grants” in which RSUs were granted by the Equity Compensation Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors to employees, officers and directors (1,062 grants).

### **Backdating of Stock Option Grants**

#### **April 9, 1999 Grants**

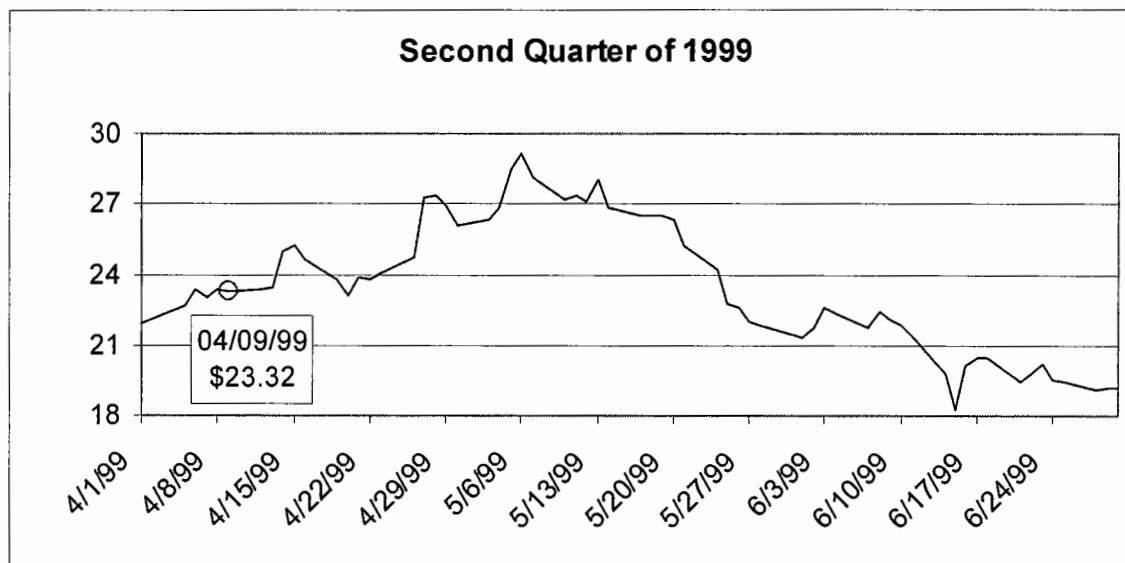
125. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the date and, in fact, did choose the date on which these stock options were granted. For the purported April 9, 1999 stock option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

126. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on a date after the reported grant date and knowingly used hindsight to select a favorable date. Defendants Bailey, Garb and

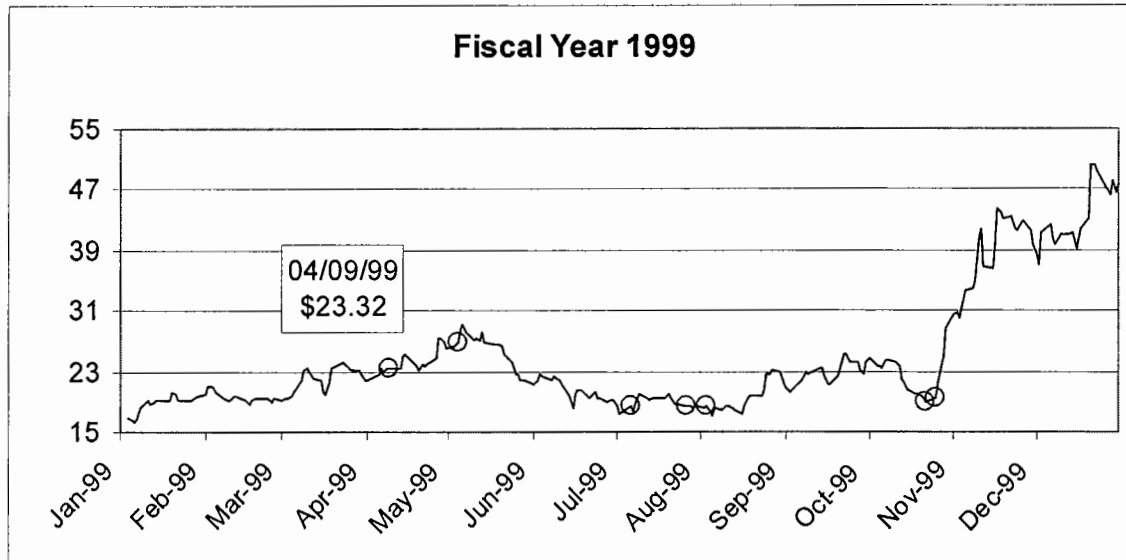
1 Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

2 127. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted Powell and von Barga stock  
3 options dated April 9, 1999, knowing that April 9, 1999 was not the date they actually approved  
4 the grants. The April 9, 1999 grants were approved by Bailey, Garb and Sporborg on a later  
5 date, occurring between the next trading day on April 10, 1999 and May 5, 1999, the date the  
6 grant was disclosed in a Form 4. Moreover, Defendants Getty and Klein knowingly approved  
7 and participated in the backdating of the April 9, 1999 grant because of their positions and  
8 knowledge of the Company as they were intimately involved in its management. Specifically,  
9 Getty and Klein are the co-founders of Getty Images, and Klein is the Chief Executive Officer of  
10 Getty Images.

11 128. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, with the knowledge of Klein and Getty,  
12 granted stock options to defendants Powell and von Barga purportedly on April 9, 1999. The  
13 grant was disclosed in Form 4s almost a month later, by which point, Getty Images average  
14 high/low stock price rose \$3.505, or 15.04%, following the purported grant date:<sup>2</sup>



26 <sup>2</sup> All charts in the Complaint are measured using the mean of the highest and lowest prices.



Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
04/09/99	Powell	\$23.32	50,000
	von Bargaen	\$23.32	75,000

#### May 4, 1999 Grants

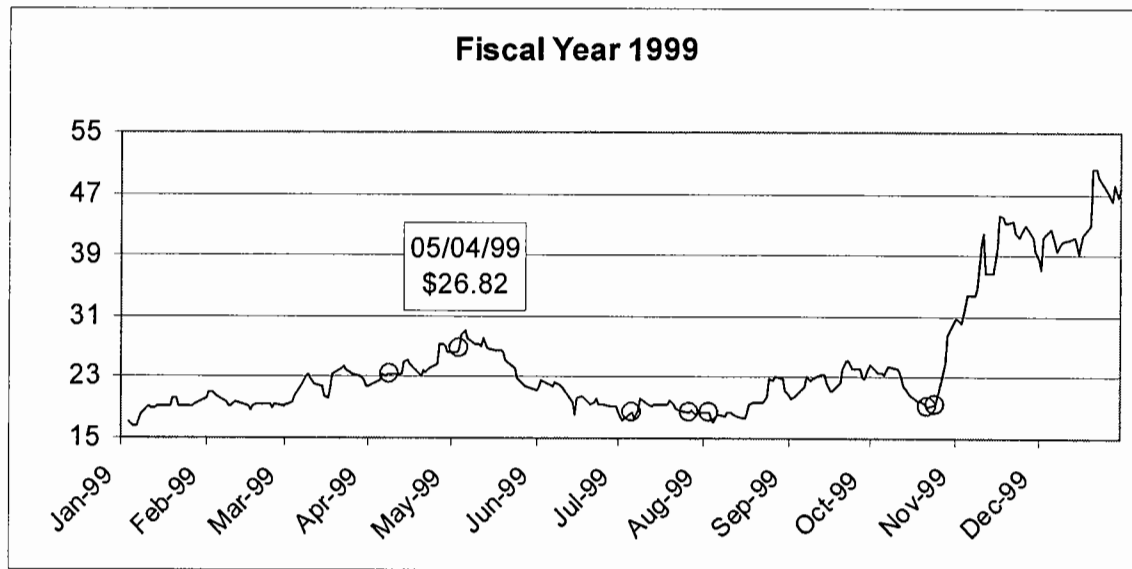
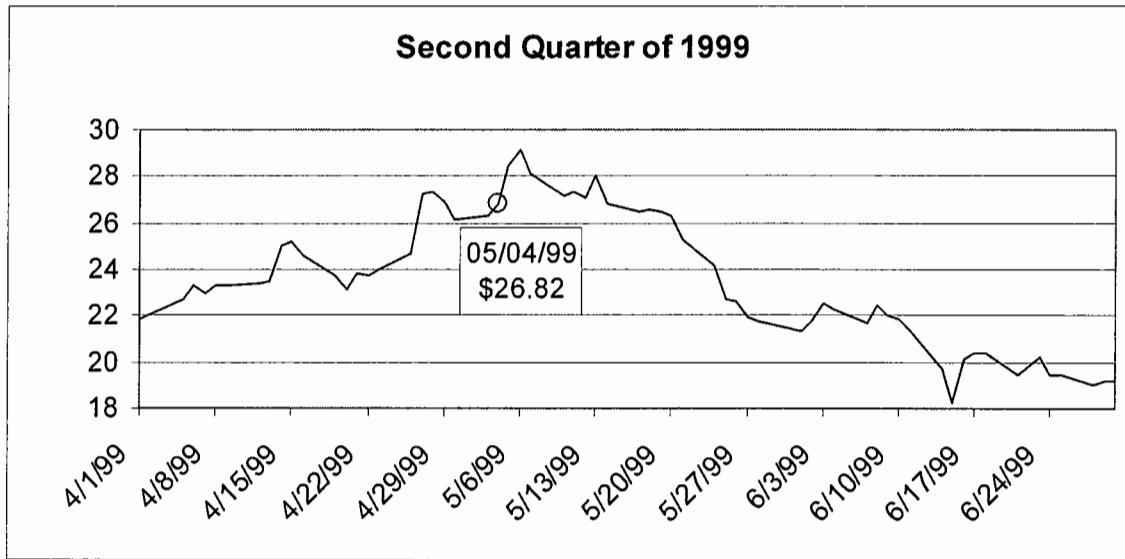
129. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the date and, in fact, did choose the date on which these stock options were granted. For the May 4, 1999 stock option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

130. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on a date after the reported grant date and knowingly used hindsight to select a favorable date. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

131. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted Evans-Lombe and Roling stock options purportedly on May 4, 1999, knowing that May 4, 1999 was not the date that they approved the grant. Moreover, Defendants Getty and Klein approved and participated in the backdating of the May 4, 1999 grants. Defendants Getty, Klein Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew



that the May 4, 1999 grant was approved by Bailey, Garb and Sporborg on a later date, occurring the next trading day on May 5, 1999 or May 6, 1999 when Getty Images average high/low stock price rose \$2.34, or 8.73%, following the purported grant date:



Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options <sup>3</sup>
05/04/99	Evans-Lombe	\$26.82	at least 30,000
	Roling	\$26.82	10,000

July 6, 1999, July 27, 1999, and August 3, 1999 Grants

132. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the dates and, in fact, did choose the dates on which these stock options were granted. For the purported July 6, 1999, July 27, 1999 and August 3, 1999 stock option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

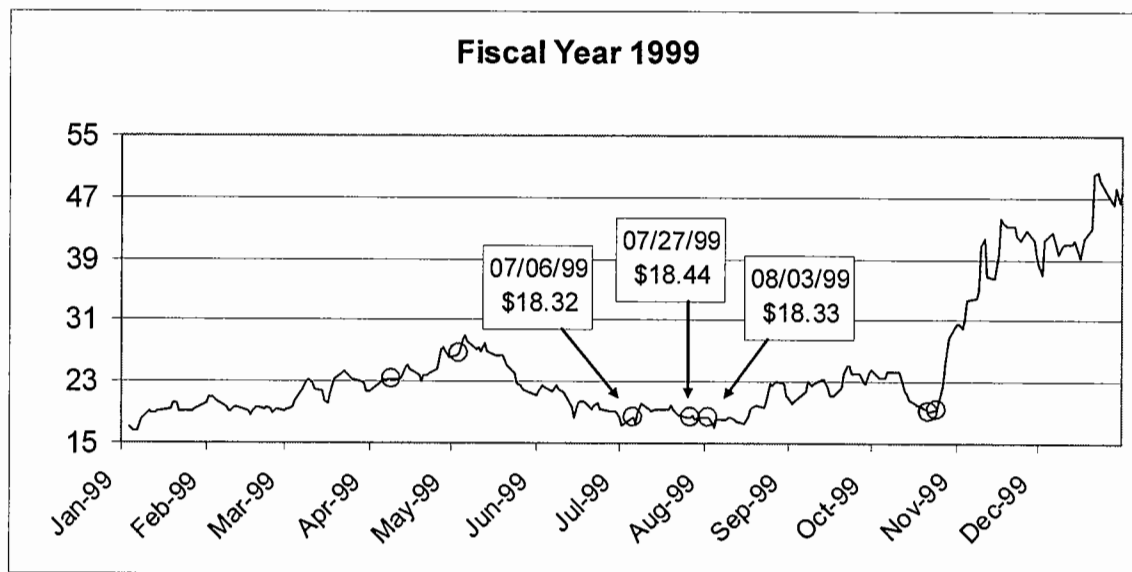
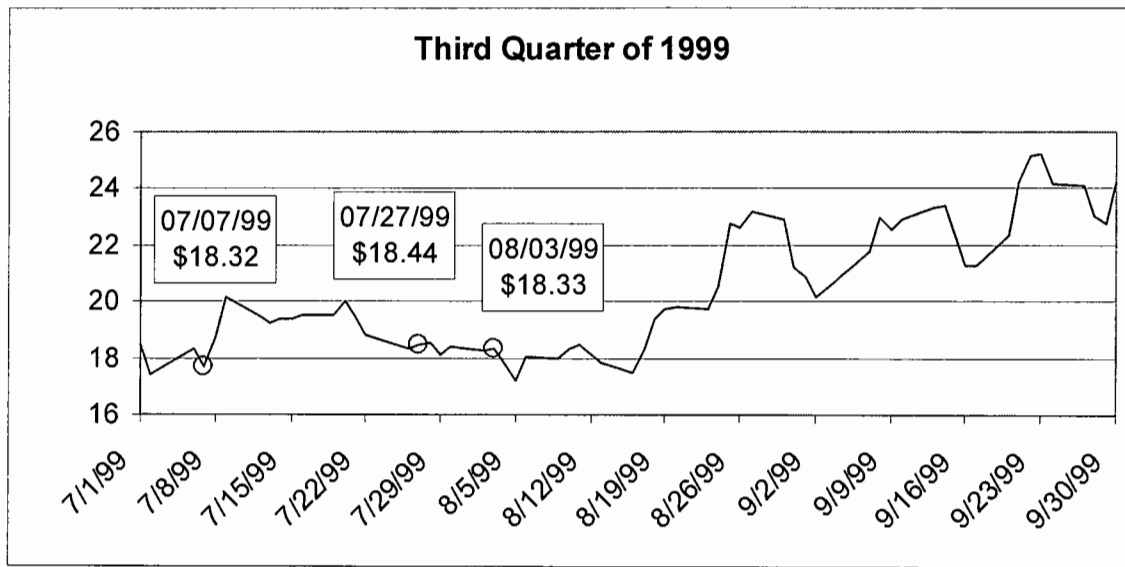
133. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on dates after the reported grant dates and knowingly used hindsight to select dates when Getty Images' stock was at quarterly or yearly lows. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

134. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted Powell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke and Roling stock options dated July 6, 1999, July 27, 1999 and August 3, 1999, knowing that these grants were actually approved on the later date. The actual grant date of the July 6, 1999 grant is estimated to be between July 8, 1999 and the end of the year on December 31, 1999, and the actual grant dates of the July 27, 1999 and August 3, 1999 grants are estimated to be between the next trading day of those grants and December 31, 1999. Moreover, Defendants Getty and Klein knowingly approved and participated in the backdating of the July 6, 1999, July

<sup>3</sup> Where the total number of options is unknown, *i.e.* where the phrase "at least" is utilized, the stock option grant did not appear in any proxy statements filed by the Company but was first disclosed in Form 4 filings, which only included the number of options pursuant to the grant that were exercised and left unexercised on the transaction date.

27, 1999 and August 3, 1999 grants because of their positions and knowledge of the Company as they were intimately involved in its management.

135. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, with the knowledge of Klein and Getty, granted stock options to defendants Powell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke and Roling backdated to July 6, 1999, July 27, 1999 and August 3, 1999, which coincided with Getty Images' lowest stock prices of the fiscal quarter and year as shown below:



Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
07/06/99	Powell	\$18.32	25,000
07/27/99	Evans-Lombe	\$18.44	at least 30,000
08/03/99	Ferguson	\$18.33	at least 3,500
	Gurke	\$18.33	at least 3,000
	Roling	\$18.33	15,000

#### October 22, 1999 and October 25, 1999 Grants

136. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the dates and, in fact, did choose the dates on which these stock options were granted. For the purported October 22, 1999 and October 25, 1999 stock option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

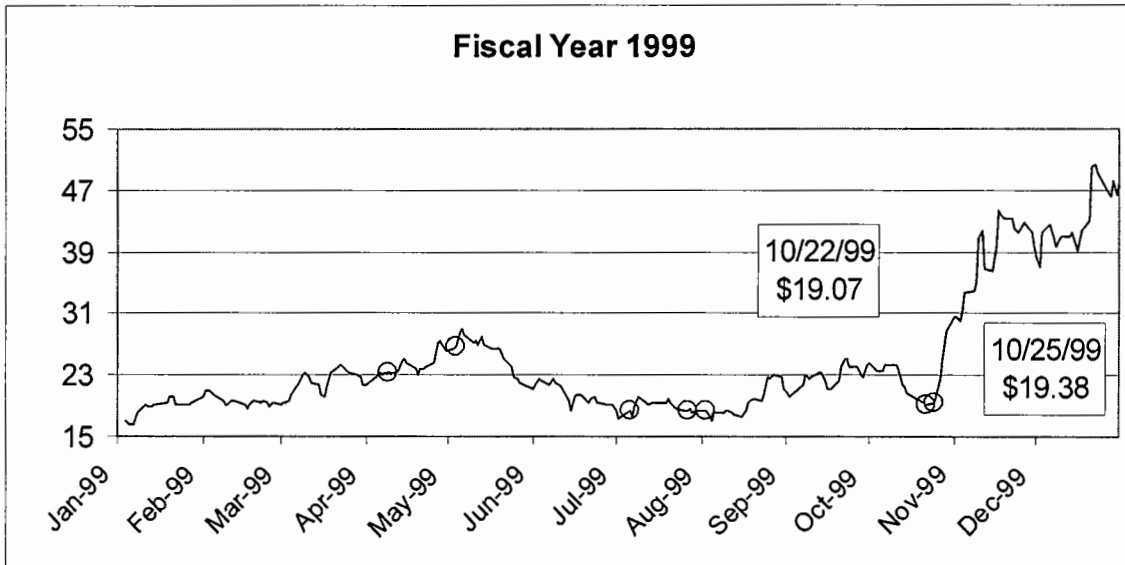
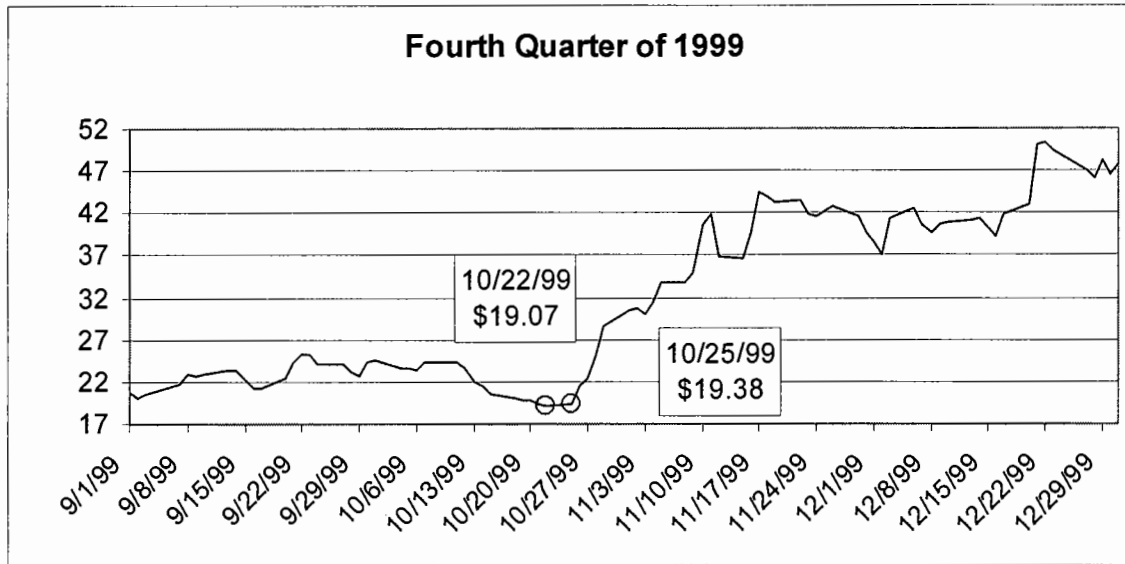
137. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on dates after the reported grant dates and knowingly used hindsight to select dates when Getty Images' stock was at quarterly or yearly lows. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

138. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted stock options to Klein, Getty, Roling, Powell, von Bargaen, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke and Woodhouse that were backdated to October 22, 1999 and October 25, 1999 with the knowledge that October 22, 1999 and October 25, 1999 were not the dates that they approved the grants. Furthermore, Defendants Klein and Getty also knew that the grants were backdated. The actual grant dates of the October 22, 1999 and October 25, 1999 grants are between the next trading day and December 31, 1999.

139. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, with the participation and knowledge of Klein and Getty, granted stock options to defendants Klein, Getty, Roling, Powell, von Bargaen, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke and Woodhouse backdated to October 22, 1999 and October 25,



1999 when Getty Images' stock price was at or near quarterly and yearly lows, as shown below:



Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
10/22/99	Klein	\$19.07	15,000
	Getty	\$19.07	15,000
	Roling	\$19.07	15,000
	Powell	\$19.07	15,000
	von Bargaen	\$19.07	40,000
	Evans-Lombe	\$19.07	at least 15,000
	Ferguson	\$19.07	at least 7,500
	Gurke	\$19.07	at least 7,500
10/25/99	Woodhouse	\$19.38	at least 2,000

#### February 1, 2000 Grants

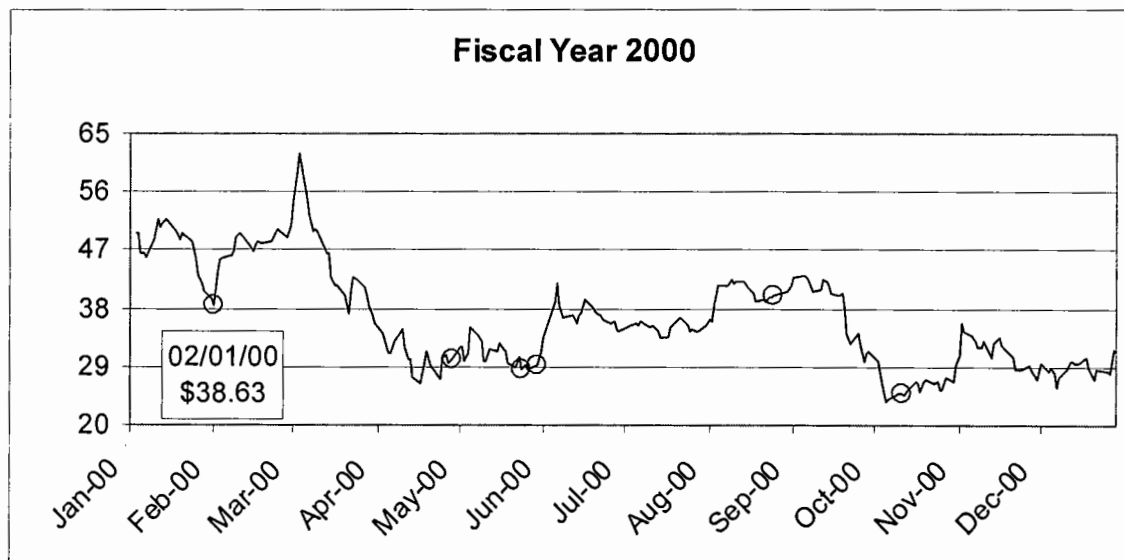
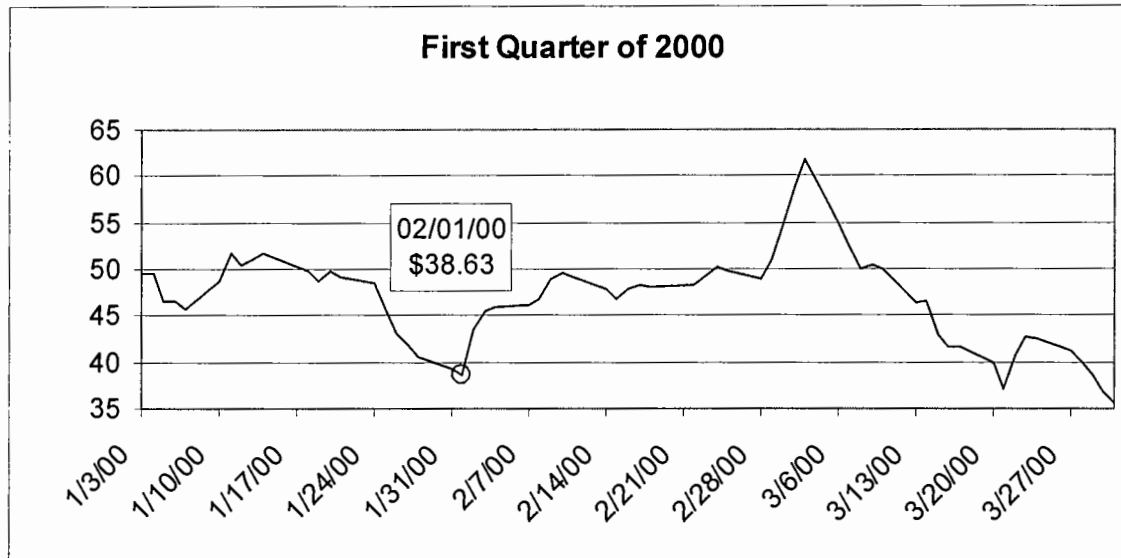
140. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the date and, in fact, did choose the date on which these stock options were granted. For the February 1, 2000 stock option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

141. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on a date after the reported grant date and knowingly used hindsight to select a favorable date. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

142. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted Ferguson and Gurke stock options purportedly on February 1, 2000, knowing that February 1, 2000 was not the date that they approved the grants. Moreover, Defendants Getty and Klein knowingly approved and participated in the backdating of the February 1, 2000 grants. Defendants Getty, Klein Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that the February 1, 2000 grants were approved by Bailey, Garb and Sporborg on a later date, occurring between February 2, 2000 and March 3, 2006 when the Company's stock price was at the highest price of the quarter.

143. In fact, in a little over a month, Getty Images average high/low stock price rose

\$23.185, or 60%, by March 3, 2006 subsequent to the purported grant date. Furthermore, the purported grant date coincides with one of Getty Images' lowest stock price of the entire quarter, as shown below:



Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
02/01/00	Ferguson	\$38.625	at least 400
	Gurke	\$38.625	at least 400

1 April 28, 2000 Grants

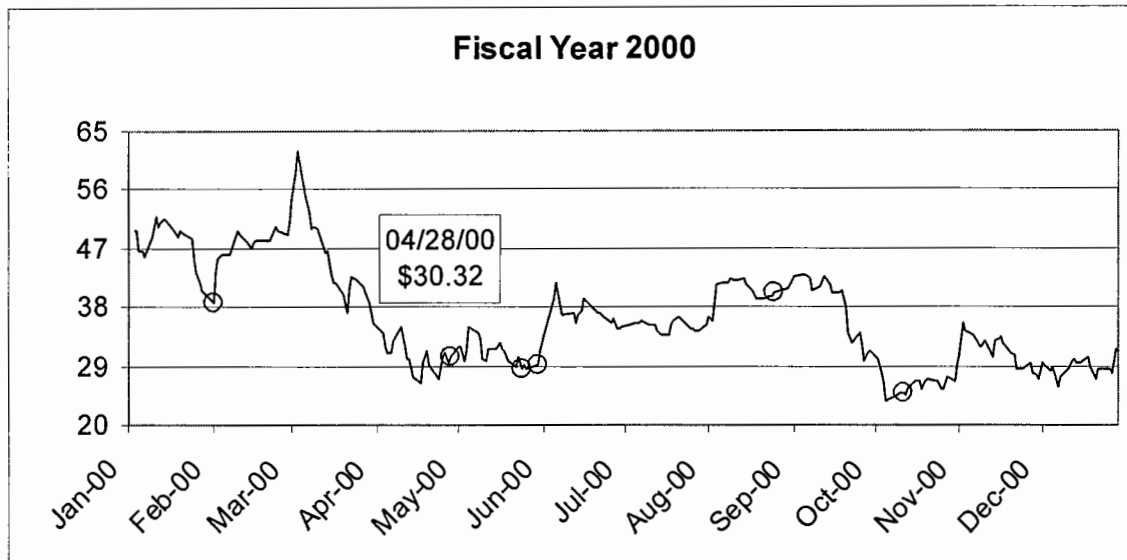
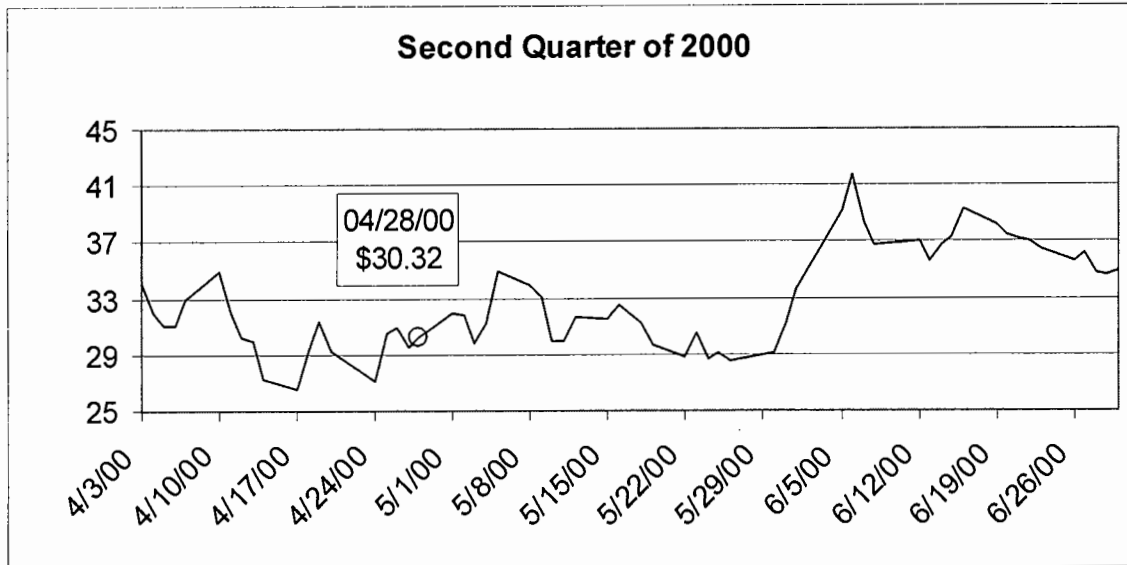
2 144. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the date and, in fact,  
3 did choose the date on which these stock options were granted. For the April 28, 2000 stock  
4 option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members,  
5 had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

6 145. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans  
7 required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant.  
8 Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on a date after the reported grant  
9 date and knowingly used hindsight to select a favorable date. Defendants Bailey, Garb and  
10 Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

11 146. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted stock options to Getty and Klein  
12 that were backdated to April 28, 2000. Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that April 28, 2000 was  
13 not the date that they approved the grant and thus approved the backdating of the April 28, 2000  
14 grants. Defendants Klein and Getty, because of their positions with the Company, also knew that  
15 the April 28, 2000 grant was granted at a later date – some time between the next trading day on  
16 May 1, 2000 and May 23, 2000, the day before the next grant date.

17 147. Moreover, Getty and Klein, the co-founders of the Company, were each granted  
18 at least 400,000 stock options purportedly dated on April 28, 2000 when Getty Images average  
19 high/low stock price rose \$4.685, or 15.45%, in the 5 trading days following the purported grant  
20 date. Furthermore, the April 28, 2000 grants were dated near the lowest stock price of the fiscal  
21 quarter, as shown below:  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27





Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
04/28/00	Getty	\$30.32	at least 400,000
	Klein	\$30.32	at least 400,000

#### May 24, 2000 and May 30, 2000 Grants

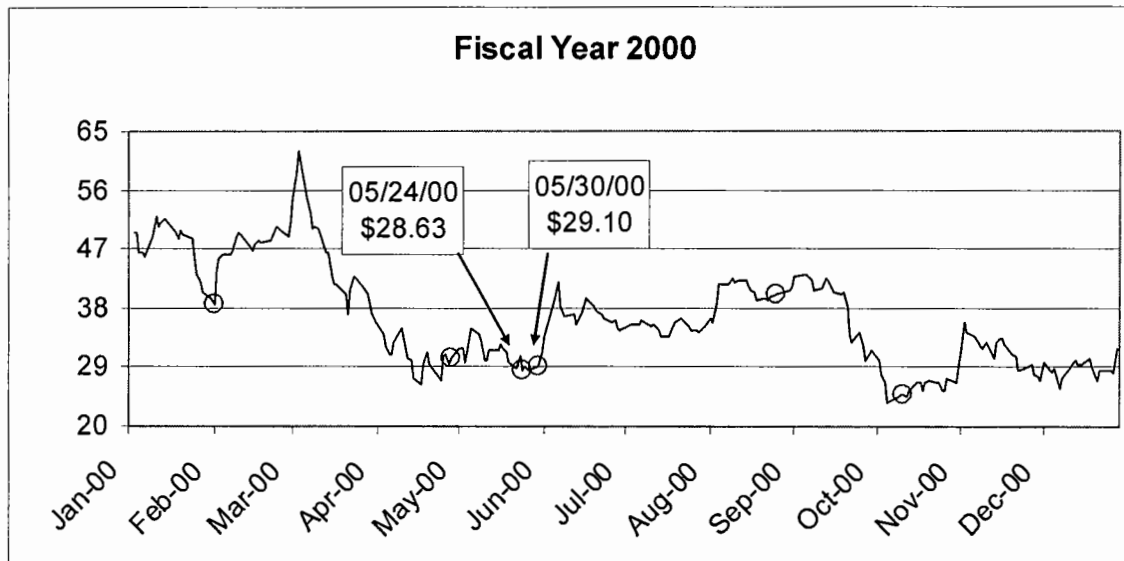
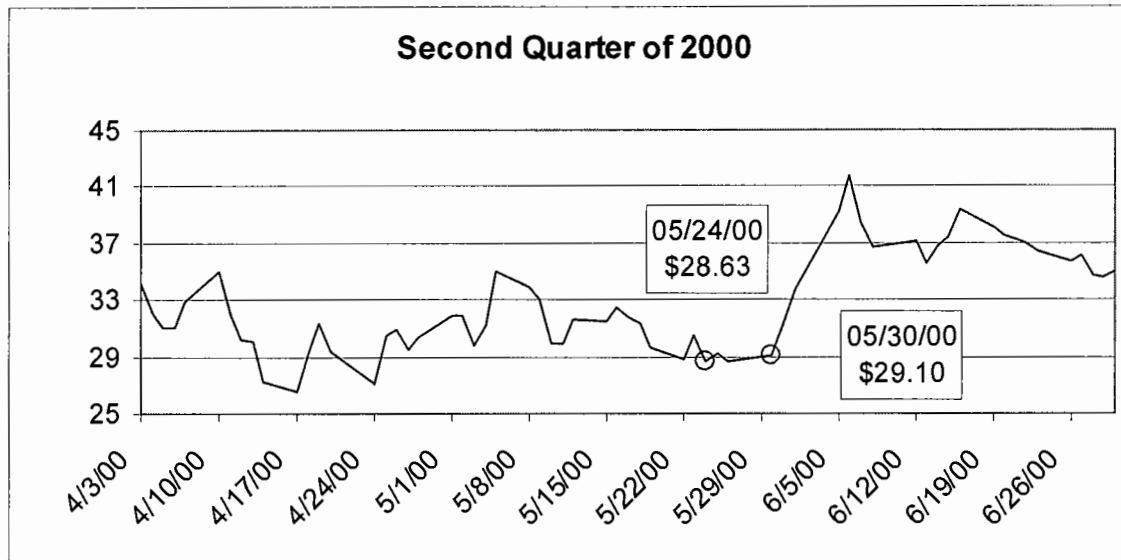
148. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the dates and, in fact, did choose the dates on which these stock options were granted. For the purported May 24, 2000 and May 30, 2000 stock option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation

1 Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock  
2 options thereunder.

3 149. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans  
4 required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant.  
5 Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on dates after the reported grant  
6 dates and knowingly used hindsight to select dates when Getty Images' stock was at quarterly or  
7 yearly lows. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date  
8 with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

9 150. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted stock options to Klein, Getty and  
10 Miskimens that were backdated to May 24, 2000 and May 30, 2000 with the knowledge that  
11 May 24, 2000 and May 30, 2000 were not the dates that they approved the grants. Furthermore,  
12 Defendants Klein and Getty also knew that the grants were backdated. The actual grant date of  
13 the May 24, 2000 grants is between May 25, 2000 and June 20, 2000, the date that the grant was  
14 disclosed in a Form 4, by which point the Getty Images' stock price had increased by \$8.875, or  
15 31%. The actual grant date of the May 30, 2000 grant to Miskimens is between the next trading  
16 day and December 31, 1999.

17 151. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, with the participation and knowledge of  
18 Klein and Getty, granted stock options to defendants Klein, Getty and Miskimens backdated to  
19 May 24, 2000 and May 30, 2000 when Getty Images' stock price was at or near a quarterly and  
20 yearly low, as shown below:  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27



Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
05/24/00	Klein	\$28.63	400,000
	Getty	\$28.63	400,000
05/30/00	Miskimens	\$29.10	at least 10,000

#### August 28, 2000 Grant

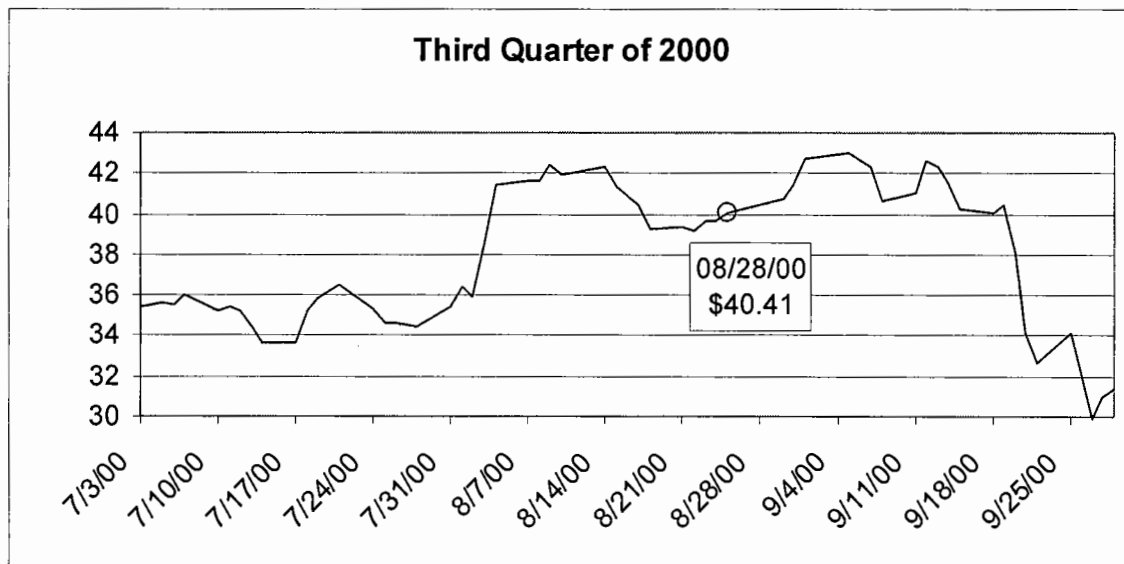
152. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the date and, in fact, did choose the date on which these stock options were granted. For the August 28, 2000 stock option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members,

1 had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

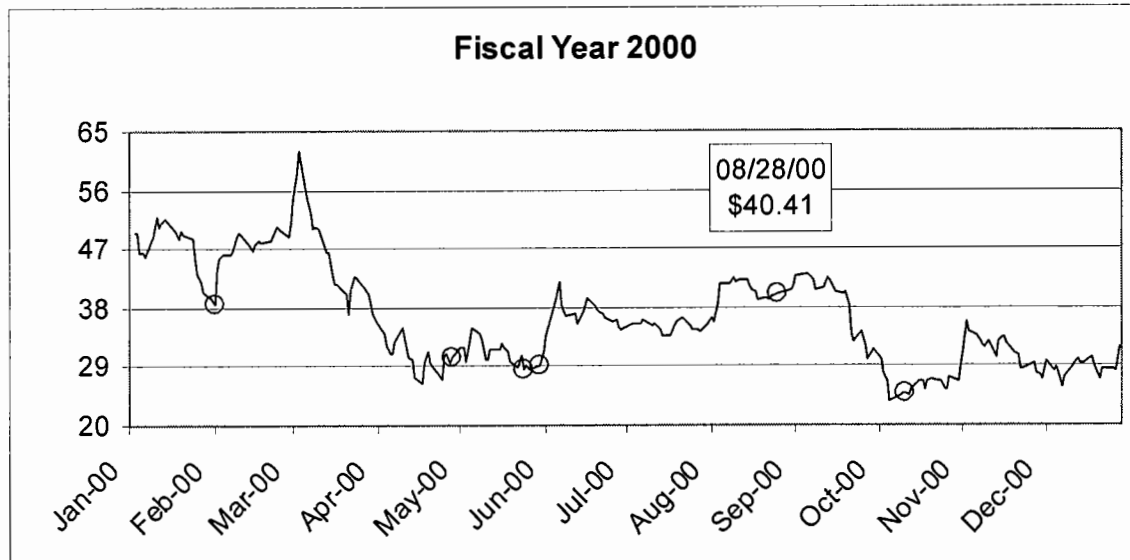
2 153. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans  
3 required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant.  
4 Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on a date after the reported grant  
5 date and knowingly used hindsight to select a favorable date. Defendants Bailey, Garb and  
6 Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

7 154. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted stock options to defendant Albers  
8 purportedly on August 28, 2000. However, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg who approved the grant  
9 knew that August 28, 2000 was not the actual date of their approval of the grant, which actually  
10 took place at a later date — sometime between the next trading day on August 30, 2000 and  
11 September 19, 2000. Because of their involvement in the running of the Company, defendants  
12 Klein and Getty also knew that the August 28, 2000 grant to Albers was backdated.

13 155. Defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved the stock options  
14 purportedly granted to Albers on August 28, 2000 when Getty Images' average high/low stock  
15 price had dropped significantly before August 28, 2000 and rose \$2.245, or 5.6%, in the ten  
16 trading days subsequent to the purported grant:







Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
08/28/00	Albers	\$40.41	25,000

#### October 11, 2000 Grants

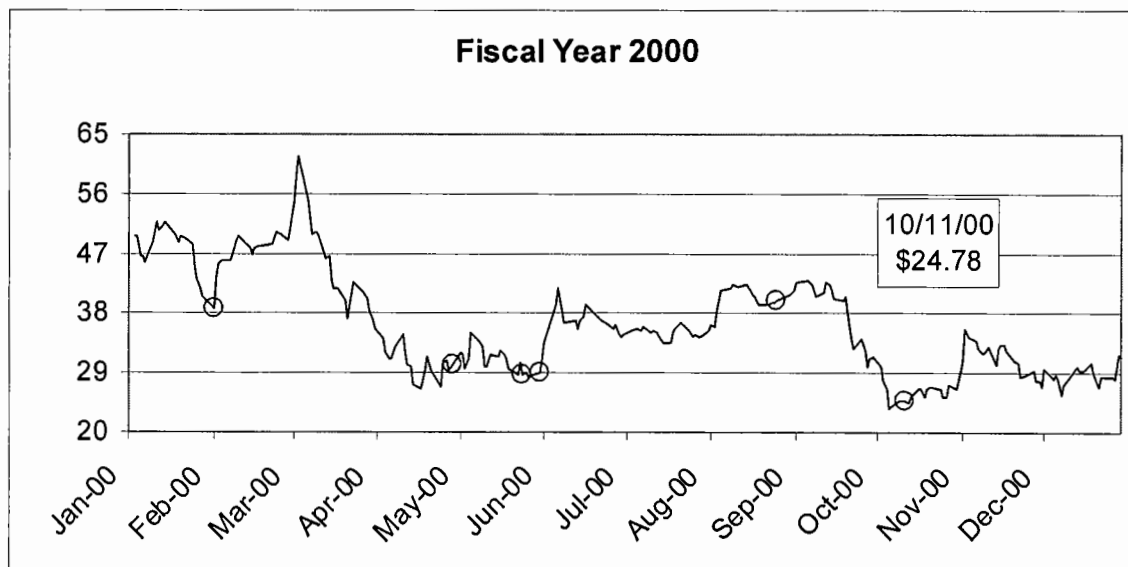
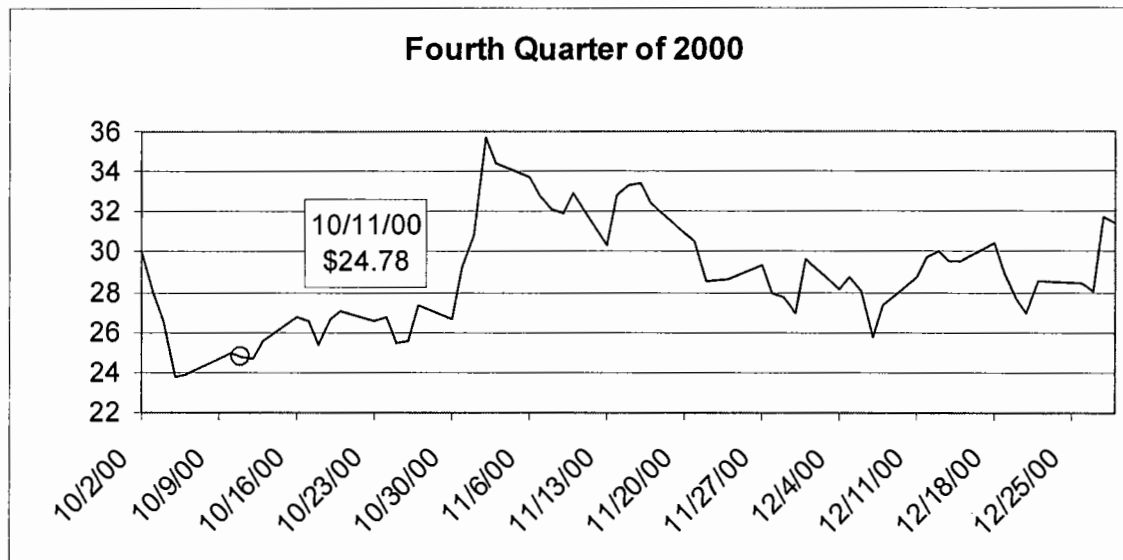
156. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the date and, in fact, did choose the date on which these stock options were granted. For the purported October 11, 2000 stock option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

157. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on a date after the reported grant date and knowingly used hindsight to select dates when Getty Images' stock was at a quarterly or yearly low. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

158. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, with the participation and knowledge of Klein and Getty, granted stock options to Woodhouse and Albers dated October 11, 2000 knowing that October 11, 2000 was not the date that they approved the grants. The actual grant

1 date of the October 11, 2000 grants is between October 13, 2000 and December 31, 2000.

2 159. Defendants Woodhouse and Albers received stock option grants purportedly  
3 dated on October 11, 2000 when the Company's average high/low price dropped significantly  
4 before the purported grant date and rose approximately \$7.30, or 29%, in just 20 trading days. In  
5 addition, the purported October 11, 2000 option grant was dated to coincide with one of Getty  
6 Images' lowest stock prices of the entire fiscal quarter and year, as demonstrated in the following  
7 charts:



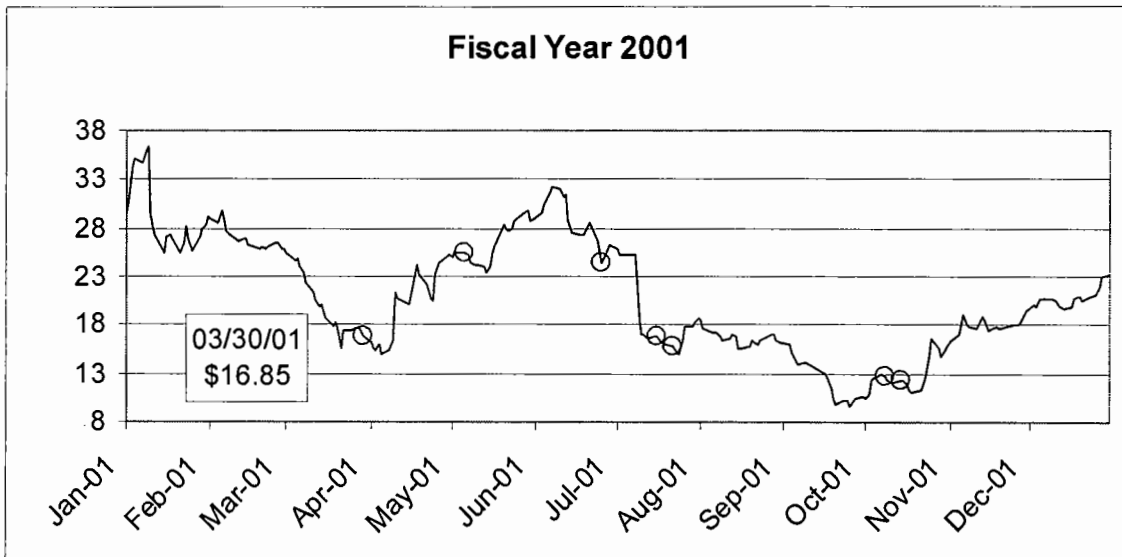
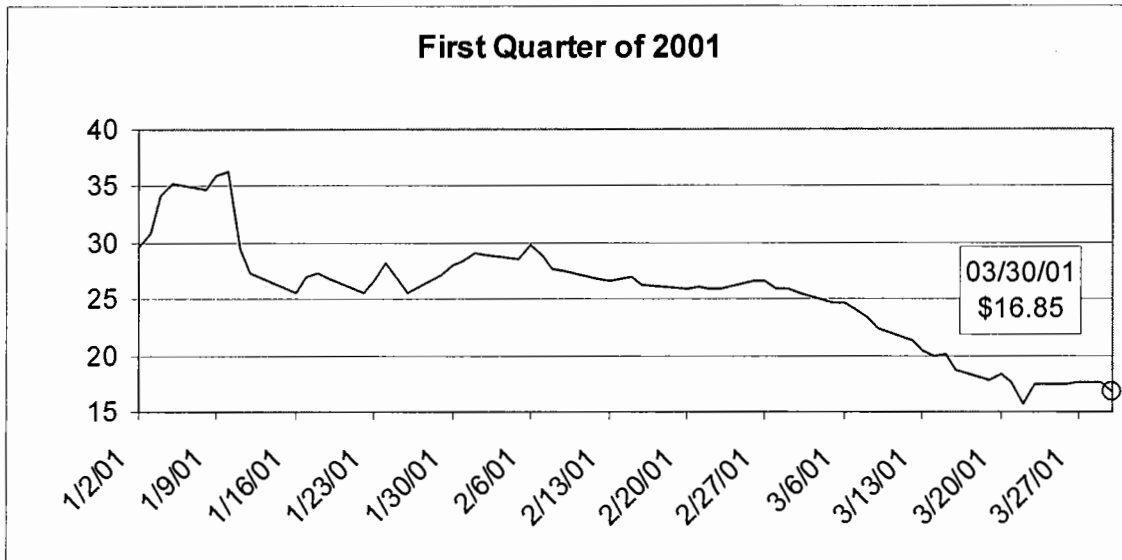
Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
10/11/00	Woodhouse	\$24.78	at least 25,000
	Albers	\$24.78	25,000

#### March 30, 2001 Grants

160. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the date and, in fact, did choose the date on which these stock options were granted. For the purported March 30, 2001 stock option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

161. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on a date after the reported grant date and knowingly used hindsight to select dates when Getty Images' stock was at a quarterly low. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

162. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, with the knowledge and participation of Klein and Getty, granted stock option to defendants Klein, Getty, von Bargaen, Huebner, Albers, Beyle, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Miskimens, O'Neill and Woodhouse backdated to March 30, 2001, which coincided with the Company's second lowest stock price of the first fiscal quarter of fiscal 2001, as demonstrated in the charts below. Notably, these grants were recorded in Form 4s filed with the SEC on April 6, 2001 (after the end of the fiscal quarter) with a grant date of March 22, 2001, which is the date of the lowest stock price of the fiscal quarter, and then was later changed in Amended Form 4s filed with the SEC in late-2002. As such, the actual grant date of the March 30, 2001 stock option some time occurred before April 6, 2001.





Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
03/30/01	Klein	\$16.85	50,000
	Getty	\$16.85	50,000
	von Bargaen	\$16.85	20,000
	Huebner	\$16.85	35,000
	Albers	\$16.85	25,000
	Beyle	\$16.85	at least 18,500
	Evans-Lombe	\$16.85	at least 20,000
	Ferguson	\$16.85	at least 10,000
	Gurke	\$16.85	at least 15,000
	Miskimens	\$16.85	at least 9,375
	O'Neill	\$16.85	at least 30,000
	Woodhouse	\$16.85	at least 30,000

#### May 7, 2001 and June 26, 2001 Grants to Klein

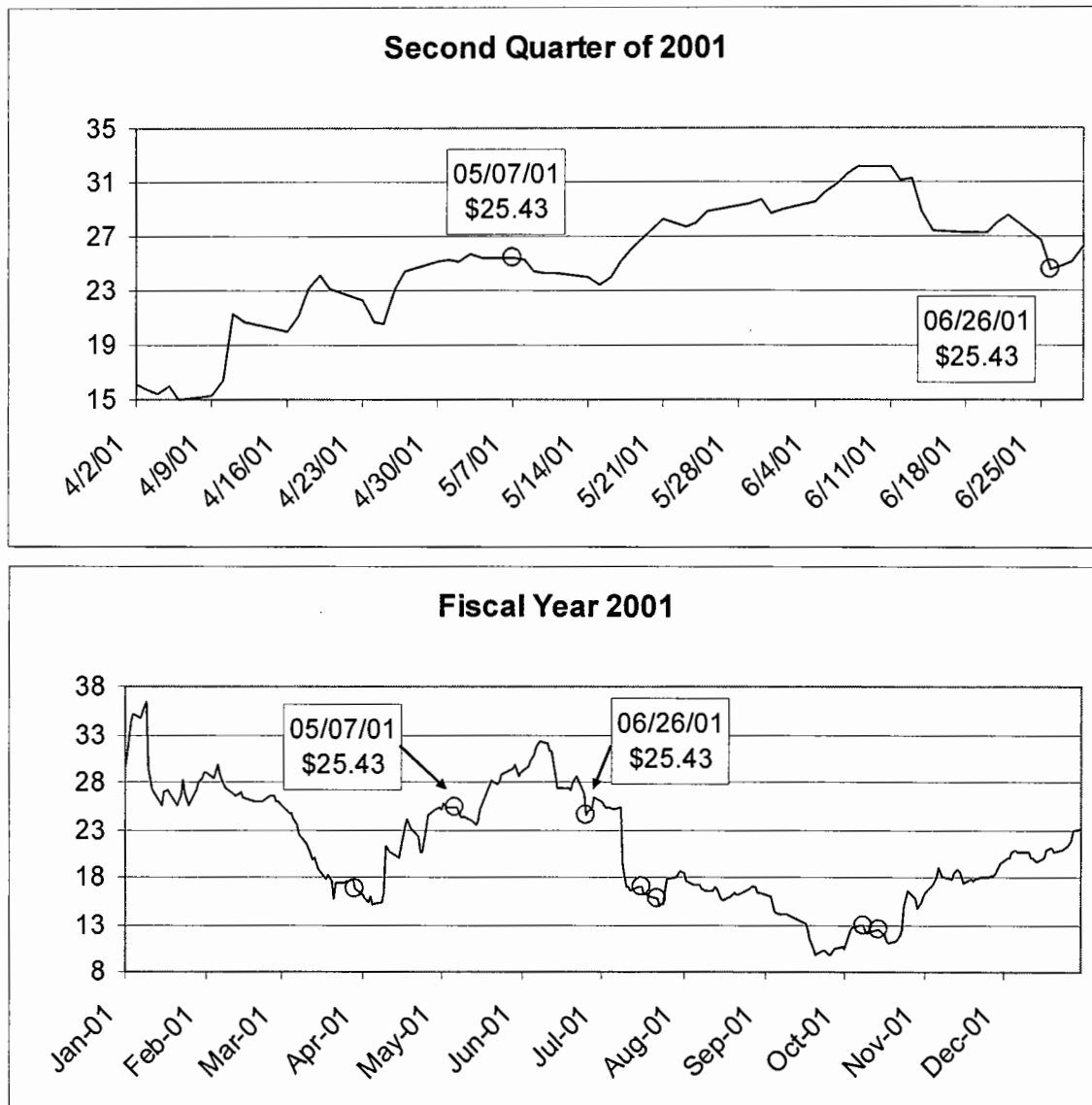
163. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the dates and, in fact, did choose the dates on which these stock options were granted. For the purported May 7, 2001 and June 26, 2001 stock option grants to Klein, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

164. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on dates after the reported grant dates and knowingly used hindsight to select favorable dates. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

165. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted stock options to defendant Klein purportedly on May 7, 2001 and June 26, 2001. However, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg who approved the grant, along with Klein and Getty, knew that May 7, 2001 and June 26, 2001 were not the actual dates of their approval of the grants, which actually took place at later dates. The actual grant date of the May 7, 2001 grant is estimated to be between May 18, 2001 and June 25,

2001, the day before the next grant date, and the actual grant date of the June 26, 2001 grant is estimated to be between June 29, 2001 and July 9, 2001.

166. The May 7, 2001 and June 26, 2001 grants to Klein coincided with Getty Images' historical low prices and were dated when the stock price increased significantly afterwards. The purported May 7, 2001 grant was dated when Getty Images average high/low stock price rose \$6.785, or 26.68%, in just over 20 trading days. The June 26, 2001 grant was backdated to when Getty Images' average high/low stock price dropped significantly before June 26, 2001 and rose \$1.03, or 4.2%, in less than 10 trading days following the purported grant date.



<b>Purported Grant Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Exercise Price</b>	<b>Number of Options</b>
05/07/01	Klein	\$25.43	232,000
06/26/01	Klein	\$25.43	170,000

#### July 17, 2001 and July 23, 2001 Grants

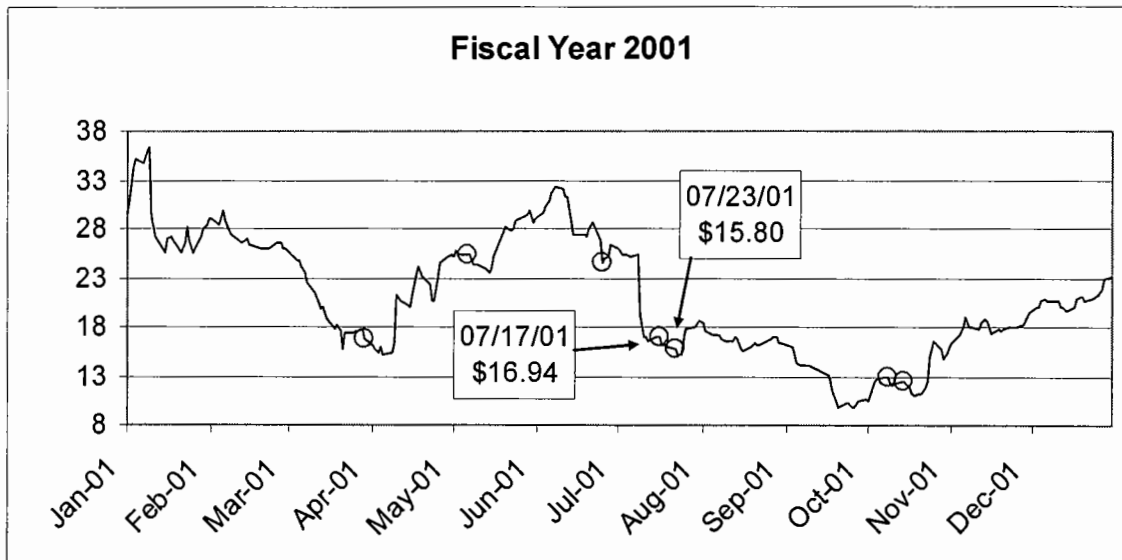
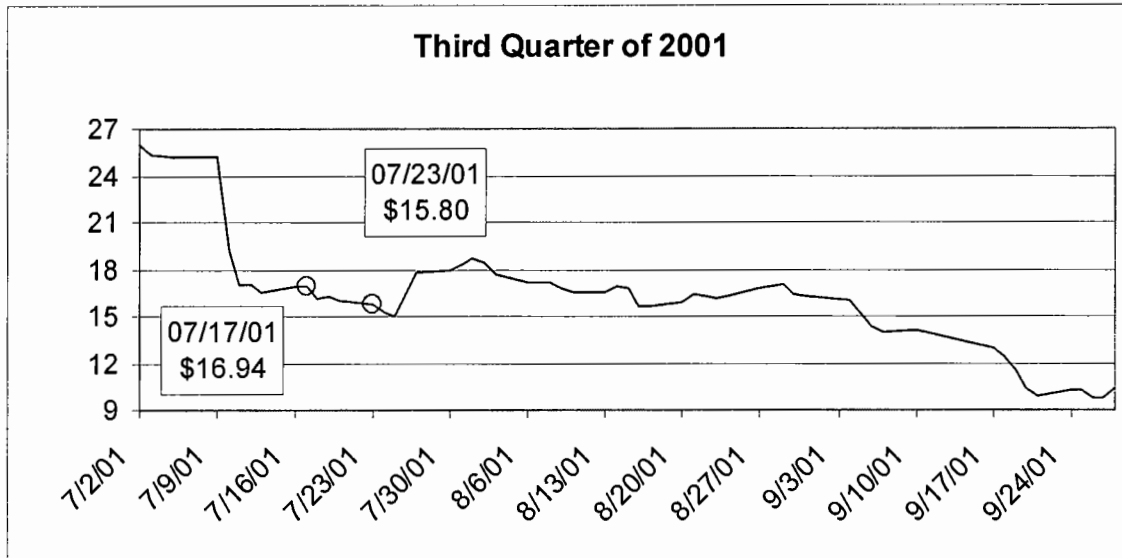
167. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the dates and, in fact, did choose the dates on which these stock options were granted. For the purported July 17, 2001 and July 23, 2001 stock option grants to Beyle, Miskimens, Woodhouse and Sporborg, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

168. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on dates after the reported grant dates and knowingly used hindsight to select favorable dates. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

169. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted stock options to defendant Klein purportedly on July 17, 2001 and July 23, 2001. However, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg who approved the grants, along with Klein and Getty, knew that July 17, 2001 and July 23, 2001 were not the actual dates of their approval of the grants, which actually took place at later dates. The actual grant date of the July 17, 2001 grant is estimated to be between July 27, 2001 and August 8, 2001, and the actual grant date of the July 23, 2001 grant is estimated to be between July 26, 2001 and September 4, 2001.

170. The stock options purportedly granted on July 17, 2001 and July 23, 2001 were dated to coincide with historically low stock prices. The Company's average high/low stock price dropped significantly before the purported grant dates and rose approximately \$3.50, or 8.5%, within 10 trading days, as demonstrated in the chart below. Remarkably, the July 17, 2001 and July 23, 2001 grants were purportedly made subsequent to the July 10, 2001 earnings release, which reported below expected earnings and which, as expected, caused the stock price

to drop significantly, as demonstrated below:



Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
07/17/01	Beyle	\$16.94	at least 25,000
	Miskimens	\$16.94	at least 5,569
	Woodhouse	\$16.94	at least 25,000
07/23/01	Sporborg	\$15.80	at least 8,333

#### October 9, 2001 and October 15, 2001 Grants

171. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the dates and, in fact,

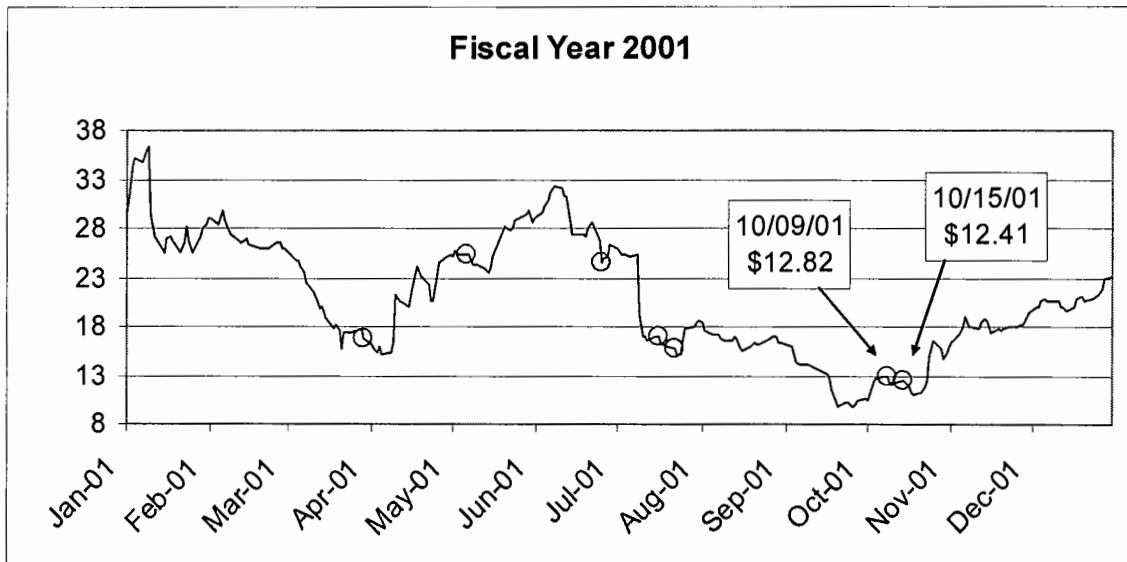
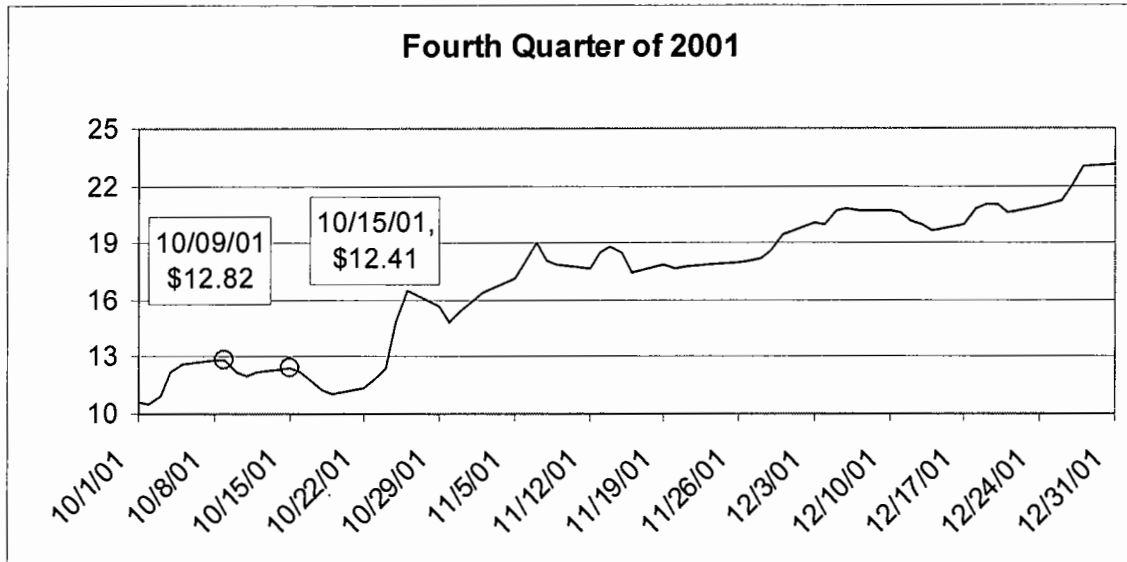


1 did choose the dates on which these stock options were granted. For the purported October 9,  
2 2001 and October 15, 2001 stock option grants, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as  
3 Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and  
4 grant stock options thereunder.

5 172. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans  
6 required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant.  
7 Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg approved these grants on dates after the reported grant  
8 dates and knowingly used hindsight to select dates when Getty Images' stock was at a quarterly  
9 low. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a  
10 lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

11 173. Compensation Committee members Bailey, Garb and Sporborg granted stock  
12 options to defendants Ferguson, Gurke, Miskimens, Klein, Getty, Huebner, Albers, Beyle,  
13 Blackwell, Evans-Lombe and Woodhouse purportedly on October 9, 2001 and October 15, 2001,  
14 which Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as well as Klein and Getty, knew were not the actual grant  
15 dates. The actual dates of the Compensation Committee's approval of the October 9, 2001 and  
16 October 15, 2001 grants occurred between October 24, 2001 and December 31, 2001.

17 174. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, with the participation and knowledge of  
18 Klein and Getty, backdated the stock option grants purportedly dated October 9, 2001 and  
19 October 15, 2001 to coincide with Getty Images' lowest stock prices of the fourth fiscal quarter  
20 of 2001, as demonstrated in the chart below:  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27



Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
10/09/01	Ferguson	\$12.82	at least 10,000
	Gurke	\$12.82	at least 10,000
	Miskimens	\$12.82	at least 4,000
10/15/01	Klein	\$12.41	50,000
	Getty	\$12.41	50,000
	Huebner	\$12.41	20,000
	Albers	\$12.41	20,000
	Beyle	\$12.41	at least 20,000
	Blackwell	\$12.41	at least 10,000
	Evans-Lombe	\$12.41	at least 20,000
	Woodhouse	\$12.41	at least 10,000

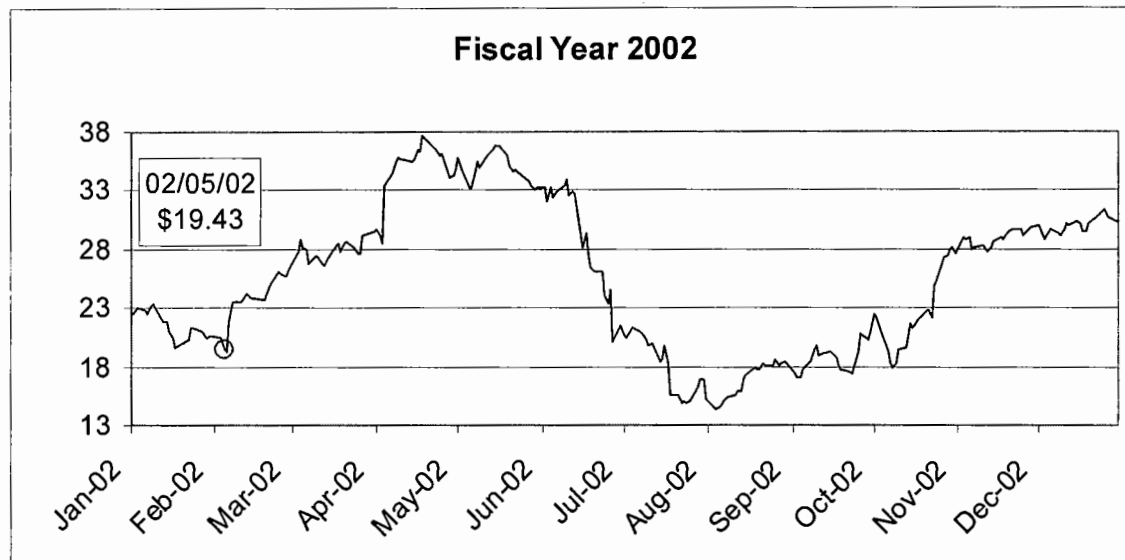
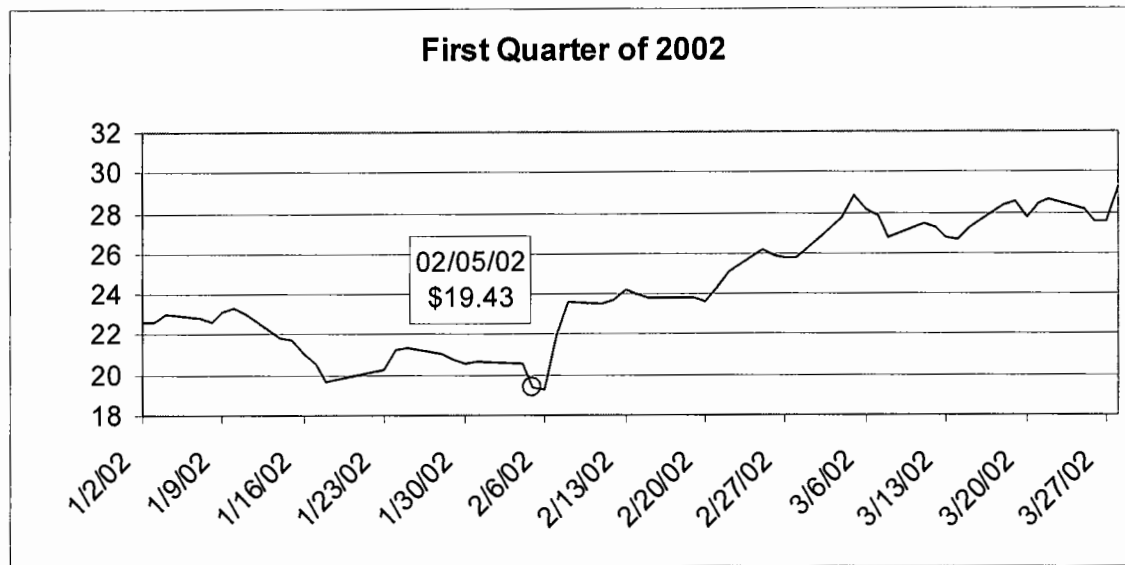
#### February 5, 2002 Grant

175. The Compensation Committee had the authority to choose the date and, in fact, did choose the date on which these stock options were granted. For the purported February 5, 2002, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, had the authority to administer the stock option plans and grant stock options thereunder.

176. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were aware that the stock option plans required that stock options be granted at not less than fair market value on the date of grant. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, with the knowledge and participation of Klein and Getty, approved these grants on a date after the reported grant date and knowingly used hindsight to select dates when Getty Images' stock was at a quarterly low. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg knew that backdating option grants to a date with a lower price violated the 1998 Plan.

177. Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, as Compensation Committee members, granted Defendant Evans-Lombe stock options dated February 5, 2002, knowing that it was not the date they actually approved the grant. With the knowledge Klein and Getty, Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg actually approved the February 5, 2002 grant on a later date, occurring between February 7, 2002 and the end of the fiscal year. The February 5, 2002 grant to Evans-Lombe coincided with Getty Images' lowest stock price of the first fiscal quarter of

2002, as demonstrated in the chart below:



Purported Grant Date	Name	Exercise Price	Number of Options
02/05/02	Evans-Lombe	\$19.43	at least 25,000

178. Each and every one of the aforementioned stock option grants were dated just before a significant increase in Getty Images' stock price and/or at or near Getty Images' lowest closing stock price of the pertinent fiscal year. The reason for the extraordinary pattern set forth in the preceding paragraphs is that the purported grant dates set forth therein were not the actual



1 dates on which the stock option grants were made. Rather, at the behest of the option recipients  
2 (Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner,  
3 Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargaen and Woodhouse), Defendants Bailey, Garb and  
4 Sporborg as well as Klein and Getty improperly backdated the stock option grants to make it  
5 appear as though the grants were made on dates when the market price of Getty Images stock  
6 was lower than the market price on the actual grant dates. This improper backdating, which  
7 violated the terms of the 1998 Plan, resulted in option grants with lower exercise prices, which  
8 improperly increased the value of the options to defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers,  
9 Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell,  
10 Roling, von Bargaen and Woodhouse and improperly reduced the amounts they had to pay the  
11 Company upon exercise of the options.

12 179. In addition, prior to the enactment of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("SOX"),  
13 defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg were able to engage in backdating of option  
14 grants with relative ease because under federal law they were only required to report option  
15 grants to the SEC once a year.

16 180. Pursuant to SOX, beginning on August 29, 2002, executives and directors were  
17 required to report option grants to the SEC within two days of the grant. With this new reporting  
18 requirement in place, the pattern of backdating options seen previously from 1999 through 2002  
19 came to an end. As discussed *infra* and as admitted by the Company in its April 16, 2007 press  
20 release, most of the backdated grants at Getty Images "were made before 2002." Indeed, the last  
21 backdated stock option grant at Getty Images was February 5, 2002, six months before the  
22 reporting requirements of SOX became effective.

23 181. Indeed, 21 of the 25 discretionary pre-SOX grants made since April 1999  
24 coincided with historically low closing prices. Specifically, 8 of the 25 grants were dated at or  
25 near yearly lows, and 14 of the 25 grants were dated at or near quarterly lows. The odds of  
26 hitting that many quarterly and yearly lows are astronomical and thus cannot be the result of  
27 "luck."

182. There were five remaining option grants made during the relevant period that were non-discretionary option grants and thus are not claimed to have been backdated. The five option grants dated October 4, 1999, April 6, 2000, October 9, 2000, November 27, 2000 and November 12, 2001 were awarded to employees as new hire grants and are dated when those individuals began employment with Getty Images.

#### **Merrill Lynch Analysis**

183. The subject of options backdating has been the focus of numerous financial analysts and experts. One reputable source, Merrill Lynch, has set forth an analytical framework to determine whether options were backdated. The Merrill Lynch analysis is set forth in a May 22, 2006 report. The analysis analyzes the twenty day performance of each option grant reported in a company's proxy statements during the relevant backdating period. The analysis also calculates the annualized return of the option grants at twenty days after the grant and compares that annualized return with the company's overall annual return.

184. Accordingly, Plaintiff analyzed stock option grants made from 1999 to 2001 that were disclosed in Getty Images' proxy statements using the same analysis as Merrill Lynch. Backdating is indicated under the Merrill Lynch analysis.<sup>4</sup>

185. Applying the Merrill Lynch analysis, the following result occurs: annualized investor returns were 176.26% in 1999, -34.03% in 2000, and -26.37% in 2001. Next, a comparison of the twenty day and annualized returns to management on the subject grants was undertaken.

186. Applying the Merrill Lynch analysis for the option grants in 1999, the average twenty day return is 25.57%, or 460.31% annualized, as compared to 176.26% annualized return to investors in 1999 – a difference of 280.05%.

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<sup>4</sup> As disclosed in the pertinent proxy statements, there were no options granted to any of the top officers during the year 2002.

187. Applying the Merrill Lynch analysis for the option grants in 2000, the average twenty day return is 10.22%, or 183.91% annualized, as compared to -34.03% annualized return to investors in 2000 – a difference of 217.94%.

188. Applying the Merrill Lynch analysis for the option grants in 2001, the average twenty day return is 17.04%, or 306.76% annualized, as compared to -26.37% annualized return to investors in 2001 – a difference of 333.13%.

189. The average annualized return to management on the option grants identified in the relevant proxy statements for calendar years 1999 to 2001 is 317%, as compared to 38.62% average annualized return to investors – a difference of 278.37%.

190. The vast discrepancies between the annualized management and annualized investors' returns demonstrate that Getty Images stock options were opportunistically granted to Company insiders in order to provide them with greater financial gains on their Getty Images stock options than were achieved in the open market. Such a dramatically beneficial pattern of option grant dates can only reasonably be explained by backdating.

#### **Getty Images' Admission of Backdating and the Internal Investigation**

191. On April 16, 2007, Getty Images issued a press releasing announcing the completion of its Special Committee investigation and *admitting that the Special Committee "identified certain awards for which grant dates were selected retroactively."*

Getty Images, Inc. (NYSE: GYI) (the "Company" or "Getty Images"), the world's leading creator and distributor of visual content, today announced that an independent special committee of its board of directors (the "Special Committee") has completed its internal investigation of the Company's equity compensation grant practices.

As previously announced on November 9, 2006, the Special Committee was established by Getty Images' Board of Directors to conduct an independent investigation relating to the Company's equity compensation grant practices and related accounting for equity compensation grants. The Special Committee consists of two independent members of Getty Images' Board of Directors, Alan G. Spoon and Michael A. Stein, the chair of the Audit Committee. The Special Committee was assisted in the investigation by independent outside legal counsel Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP.

1 Together with its independent counsel, the Special Committee conducted an  
2 extensive review of equity compensation grant practices and awards made by the  
3 Company, between July 14, 1994 and November 1, 2006 (the "Relevant Period"),  
4 which covered 7,102 stock option grants and 1,062 restricted stock unit ("RSU")  
5 grants made on 465 occasions. During the investigation, numerous documents  
6 were reviewed, and extensive interviews of current and former employees of the  
7 Company and other individuals were conducted by the Special Committee's  
8 independent counsel.

9 As also previously announced on November 9, 2006, the Securities and Exchange  
10 Commission (the "SEC") had earlier notified the Company that it is conducting an  
11 informal inquiry into the Company's equity compensation grant practices. The  
12 Company continues to cooperate fully with the SEC in this informal inquiry.

### 13 **The Special Committee's Conclusions**

14 \* \* \*

15 The Special Committee and the Company's management have determined that  
16 incorrect measurement dates for certain equity compensation awards made during  
17 the Relevant Period were used for financial accounting purposes and, as a result,  
18 the Company will restate its prior financial statements to correct the accounting  
19 for those awards. The use of incorrect measurement dates resulted from a number  
20 of reasons, including delays in the approval of awards, the absence of definitive  
21 documentation and modifications of previously awarded grants. *The Special  
22 Committee also identified certain awards for which grant dates were selected  
23 retroactively . . . .* Nearly all of the grants for which the measurement dates are  
24 being changed (approximately 98% of the grants) were awarded in 2001 and  
25 earlier years. The Company anticipates that the restatement will involve total pre-  
26 tax, non-cash stock-based compensation expense of approximately \$28 million to  
27 \$32 million, of which approximately 95% will be expensed in 2002 and earlier  
years. Because these estimates are preliminary and we have not quantified all of  
the tax impacts, the net after tax amounts to be restated have not yet been  
determined by the Company.

The Company also has decided to implement certain remedial measures  
recommended by the Special Committee and endorsed by the Board of Directors  
in order to ensure reliability, transparency and accuracy in its equity compensation  
grant practices and accounting for its equity compensation program going  
forward. These remedial measures are described below.

\* \* \*



A total of 7,102 option grants and 1,062 RSUs grants were made on 465 occasions during the Relevant Period . . . . *The Special Committee and the Company have determined that it is necessary to revise the measurement dates for approximately 3,700 of these grants, covering grants made on approximately 130 occasions.* Over half of the grants for which the measurement dates are being revised relate to an all-employee award in February of 2000 pursuant to which 400 options were granted to all employees below vice president level.

#### **Changes in Connection with Equity Compensation Grant Practices**

In addition to the adjustment to the Company's previously filed financial statements as described above, as a result of this review, the Special Committee has recommended, and the Board of Directors has adopted, the following changes to improve the Company's equity compensation grant practices.

- Two additional independent directors will be recruited and appointed to the Company's Board of Directors.
- Membership of the Audit and Compensation Committees of the Board of Directors will be changed.
- The Equity Compensation Committee has been discontinued.
- Enhancements will be made in the oversight of the Company's corporate governance practices with respect to the Company's equity compensation programs.
- Senior management will be charged with ensuring that the equity compensation policies and processes are appropriate and provide effective controls, and that the Company's accounting for equity compensation is appropriate.
- Certain of the Company's equity compensation administrative processes and functions will move from the Company's human resources organization to the finance organization, under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer.
- The Board of Directors has unanimously adopted an Equity Compensation Grant Policy on April 10, 2007, which provides, among other things, that:
  - All terms of each equity grant must be finalized and approved by the Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee on or prior to the grant date;
  - All stock options must have an exercise price equal to or greater than the average of the high and low prices on the grant date;

- All recipients of equity grants must be notified, in writing, of such grants as soon as possible following approval;
- Any equity compensation issues or actions will be reported by senior management on a timely basis to the Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee, no less frequently than quarterly.

192. On June 13, 2007, the Company filed with the SEC its 2006 Annual Report, which restated its financial reports to account for additional compensation expenses in the amount of **\$27 million**. In addition to the Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations also announced in the April 16, 2007 press release, the 2006 Annual Report also disclosed that:

The Special Committee and the company have determined that it is necessary to revise the measurement dates for approximately 45% of these awards ("Adjusted Options"). Over half of the awards for which the measurement date is being revised relate to the company's only all employee grant in February of 2000 to employees below the vice president level. In addition, the measurement dates for many awards were revised due to: (i) the use of the date of the approval of a pool of options as the measurement date as opposed to the date that the terms of each grant were finalized; (ii) the use of the date that a Unanimous Written Consent approving equity awards was faxed to Compensation Committee members for their approval, rather than the date when the approvals of the Compensation Committee members had been faxed back, as the measurement date for the associated grants; and (iii) the absence of a detailed list of recipients and associated grants prior to the date certain grants were entered into our equity award tracking system.

We previously applied Accounting Principles Board ("APB") Opinion No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees," and its related Interpretations and provided the required pro forma disclosures under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation," through our fiscal year ended December 31, 2005. We have used the accelerated method of expensing stock options provided in Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 28, "Accounting for Stock Appreciation Rights and Other Variable Stock Option or Award Plans" for recording expense and for our pro forma disclosures. Under APB Opinion No. 25, a non-cash, stock-based compensation expense was required to be recognized for any option for which the exercise price was below the market price on the measurement date. Because most of the company's Adjusted Options had an exercise price below the market price on the measurement date, there should have

1 been a non-cash charge for each of these options under APB Opinion No. 25 equal  
2 to the number of option shares, multiplied by the difference between the exercise  
3 price and the market price on the measurement date. That expense should have  
been amortized over the service period of the option.

4 The company also reviewed modifications made to previously granted options and  
5 determined that we did not record the appropriate amount of compensation  
6 expense for some of the modifications ("Modified Options"). We did not record  
7 the appropriate amount of stock-based compensation expense under APB Opinion  
No. 25 related to Adjusted or Modified Options in our previously issued financial  
statements, and are recording these expenses in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

8 193. In sum, the Special Committee and the Company have determined that  
9 approximately 3,700 grants made on 130 occasions were misdated. In addition, because of the  
10 measurement date errors, Company has adjusted its financial results for the material  
11 compensation expenses and thus has issued a restatement to account for the additional stock-  
12 based compensation expenses.

13 194. Although Getty Images admitted to such egregious misconduct, Getty Images  
14 claimed that "the Special Committee concluded that the evidence obtained and reviewed in its  
15 investigation did not establish any intentional wrongdoing by current employees, officers or  
16 directors of the Company." Such a statement cannot be squared with the striking pattern of the  
17 1999-2002 stock option grants set forth above, which demonstrates knowing and intentional  
18 backdating to dates when Getty Images stock was at historical lows.

19 195. Moreover, the Special Committee's conclusion conflicts with the Company's own  
20 admissions that there was backdating of option grants before 2002, when current directors,  
21 Defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, were on the Board and/or the  
22 Compensation Committee. The act of backdating stock options, by its very nature, is a knowing  
23 and intentional act. As such, these defendants should be held accountable for participating in the  
24 backdating scheme. In addition, the Company failed to provide specific details with respect to  
25 those it did find responsible for the backdating of Getty Images stock options. As such, the  
26 Special Committee's conclusion that "the evidence [] did not establish any intentional  
27



wrongdoing by current employees, officers or directors of the Company” lacks merit and should be disregarded.

### **BACKDATING CAUSED HARM TO THE COMPANY**

196. As a result of the backdating and other manipulation of options issued to Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O’Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargen and Woodhouse, they have been unjustly enriched in the amount of millions of dollars at the expense of the Company. The Company has received and will receive less money from these defendants when they exercise their options at prices substantially lower than they would have if the options had not been backdated.

### **Restatement of Getty Images’ Financial Statements**

197. The practice of backdating stock options not only lined the pockets of the Company’s executives at the direct expense of the Company and the shareholders but also resulted in the overstatement of the Company’s net income. This is because options priced below the stock’s fair market value when they were awarded brought the recipient an instant paper gain that must be accounted for as additional compensation and treated as an expense to the Company. Indeed, the Company restated its historical financial results to account for additional stock-based compensation totaling \$27 million.

198. The Special Committee concluded that, pursuant to the requirements of APB 25, different accounting measurement dates for the purpose of computing compensation costs for certain stock option grants should have been used. Furthermore, the additional non-cash stock-based compensation expense under the revised calculations will have the effect of decreasing reported net income or increasing reported net loss, and increasing the reported accumulated deficit contained in the Company’s historical financial statements.

199. On June 8, 2007, Getty Images filed its financial results the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006, which included restatements of the following previously filed financial statements and data:



1 This Annual Report on Form 10-K for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2006  
2 includes restatements of the following previously filed financial statements and  
3 data (and related disclosures), which resulted primarily from recording additional  
4 compensation expense due to changes in the measurement dates of certain equity  
5 award grants that were made as a result of the internal investigation into our  
6 historical equity award grant practices and modifications previously made to  
7 certain granted equity awards: (1) our consolidated financial statements for our  
8 fiscal years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004; (2) our selected consolidated  
9 financial data for our fiscal years ended December 31, 2005, 2004, 2003 and  
10 2002, and (3) our unaudited quarterly financial data for each quarter in our fiscal  
11 year ended December 31, 2005 and the first and second quarters of fiscal year  
12 2006. We have filed amended Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q/A for the quarters  
13 ended March 31, 2006 and June 30, 2006 to reflect the restatements.

14 200. In addition to the serious and adverse tax consequences, which resulted from the  
15 Company's failure to record the additional non-cash stock-based compensation, Getty Images  
16 faces millions of dollars in costs associated with the Special Committee's internal investigation  
17 and the related restatements. Getty Images also will likely admit to material weakness in its  
18 financial controls resulting in a qualified opinion from its outside auditor.

19 **Dissemination of False and Misleading Financial Statements**

20 201. As known to defendants Klein and Getty and Compensation Committee members  
21 Bailey, Garb, and Sporborg, their secret option backdating scheme caused each of Getty Images'  
22 Forms 10-K and Forms 10-Q for the relevant period to materially understate Getty Images'  
23 compensation expense and materially overstate the Company's net income or materially  
24 understate its net loss, because these defendants failed to expense the in-the-money portion of  
25 Getty Images' stock option grants during the relevant period, as required by APB 25.

26 202. Particularly, defendants Garb, Bailey and Sporborg also served on the Audit  
27 Committee and were well aware of GAAP and other accounting rules. As such, they were aware  
of the material effect their backdating scheme had on Getty Images' financial statements.  
Furthermore, Defendant Klein was the Company's CEO and knowingly made false statements in  
Getty Image's financial reports. Defendants Garb, Bailey, Sporborg and Klein knew that, as a

1 result of their misconduct, the compensation expenses were understated and thus their net  
2 income was overstated.

3 203. As a result of the improper backdating of stock options, the Company, with the  
4 knowledge, approval and participation of defendants Klein and Getty and Compensation  
5 Committee members Garb, Bailey and Sporborg:

- 6 a. violated the terms of the 1998 Plan by granting stock options with exercise prices  
7 less than the fair market value of the stock on the actual date of grant;
- 8 b. violated APB 25 by failing to recognize compensation expenses incurred when  
9 the improperly backdated options were granted;
- 10 c. violated Section 162(m) by taking tax deductions based on stock option grants  
11 that were not payable solely on account of the attainment of one or more  
12 performance goals and violated the terms of the Company's shareholder-approved  
13 stock option plans; and
- 14 d. produced and disseminated false financial statements to Getty Images  
15 shareholders and the market that improperly recorded and accounted for the  
16 backdated option grants, and thereby understated compensation expenses and  
17 overstated net income.

18 204. The Company, with the knowledge, approval, and participation of Defendants  
19 Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg, disseminated its false financial statements in, *inter alia*,  
20 the following Form 10-K filings:

- 21 a. Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999, filed with the SEC on March  
22 30, 2000 and signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Roling, Garb, Bailey and  
23 Sporborg;
- 24 b. Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, filed with the SEC on April 2,  
25 2001 and signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and  
26 Sporborg;
- 27 b. Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001, filed with the SEC on March  
28 29, 2002 and signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and  
29 Sporborg;
- 30 c. Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002 filed with the SEC on March  
31 21, 2003 and signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and  
32 Sporborg;
- 33 d. Form 10-K for the year ended December 31 2003, filed with the SEC on March

12, 2004 and signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg;

e. Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004, filed with the SEC on March 11, 2005 and signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg; and

f. Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005, filed with the SEC on March 9, 2006 and signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg.

g. Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2005, filed with the SEC on March 10, 2006 and signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg.

205. Furthermore, Getty Images' executives, including defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargen and Woodhouse, were overpaid improper cash bonuses based on the foregoing false and misleading financial information that should be repaid to the Company.

#### The 1999 Form 10-K

206. On or about March 30, 2000, Getty Images filed its 1999 Report on Form 10-K with the SEC. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg approved and signed the Form 10-K that included Getty Images' 1999 financial statements, which they knew were materially false and misleading and presented in violation of GAAP, due to improper accounting for the backdated stock options. As stated above, Audit Committee and Compensation Committee members Garb, Bailey and Sporborg, with the knowledge and participation of defendants Klein and Getty, knowingly approved the April 9, 1999, May 4, 1999, July 6, 1999, July 27, 1999, August 3, 1999, October 22, 1999 and October 25, 1999 grants when they knew that they actually approved these grants on later dates and backdated these grants to when Getty Images' stock price was lower than the actual grant dates. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg granted these improperly priced and dated options for the benefit of the Company insiders to the detriment of the Company. As a result, defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and



1 Sporborg knew that Getty Images' compensation expense was understated and its net earnings  
2 were overstated and thus knowingly approved the false Form 10-K for fiscal year 1999 filed on  
3 March 30, 2000.

4 207. In addition, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg made the  
5 following misrepresentations about Getty Images' stock option plans in the 1999 Report on Form  
6 10-K:

7 Under the Getty Images Plan, the Board has the discretion to grant stock options  
8 ("Options") underlying shares of Common Stock at fair market prices, based on  
9 the average of the high and low prices of the Company's Common Stock on the  
10 date of grant. The Options vest 25% on the first anniversary of the date of grant  
11 and on a monthly *pro rata* basis over three years thereafter and have a term of ten  
12 years.

13 208. As detailed above, this statement was knowingly false and misleading because the  
14 stock options purportedly dated April 9, 1999, May 4, 1999, July 6, 1999, July 27, 1999, August  
15 3, 1999, October 22, 1999 and October 25, 1999 were not granted at fair market value on the  
16 date of grant but in fact had exercise prices less than the average high and low prices of the  
17 Company's common stock on the actual grant dates. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and  
18 Sporborg knew the statement was false and misleading when they made the representation in the  
19 1999 Form 10-K because they were involved in the backdating of the foregoing 1999 stock  
20 option grants.

21 209. Furthermore, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg caused Getty  
22 Images to falsely state in the 1999 Form 10-K that, "[t]he Company applies Accounting  
23 Principles Board Opinion No. 25 ('APB No. 25'), Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees  
24 and related interpretations in accounting for its stock option plans." This statement was  
25 materially false and misleading because Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knowingly  
26 granted stock options at prices that were below fair market value on the date of the grant and  
27 failed to account for the in-the-money options as required by APB 25.



210. The 1999 Form 10-K was signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Roling, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg and because of their involvement in the backdating scheme, defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knowingly approved the filing of the false Form 10-K for fiscal year 1999.

The 2000 Form 10-K

211. On or about April 2, 2001, Getty Images filed its 2000 Report on Form 10-K with the SEC. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg approved and signed the Form 10-K that included Getty Images' 2000 financial statements, which they knew were materially false and misleading and presented in violation of GAAP, due to improper accounting for the backdated stock options. As stated above, Audit Committee and Compensation Committee members Garb, Bailey and Sporborg, with the knowledge and participation of defendants Klein and Getty, knowingly backdated the stock option grants to February 1, 2000, April 28, 2000, May 24, 2000, May 30, 2000, August 28, 2000 and October 11, 2000 when Getty Images' stock price were lower than the actual grant dates. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that the grants were approved on later dates than reported. Furthermore, these defendants granted these improperly priced and dated options for the benefit of Company insiders to the detriment of the Company. As a result, defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that Getty Images' compensation expense was understated and its net earnings were overstated and thus knowingly approved the false Form 10-K for fiscal year 2000 filed on April 2, 2001.

212. In addition, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb made the following misrepresentations about 1998 Plan in the 2000 Report on Form 10-K:

Under the Getty Images, Inc. 1998 Stock Incentive Plan (the Plan), the Board of Directors has the discretion to grant stock options underlying shares of common stock at fair market prices, based on the average of the high and low prices of the Company's common stock on the date of grant. The options vest 25% on the first anniversary of the date of grant and on a monthly pro rata basis over three years thereafter and have a term of ten years. A total of 13 million shares are reserved for issuance under this plan, with shares under options that lapse available for re-

1 issuance. Options become exercisable when vested and remain exercisable  
 2 through the remainder of the option term except upon termination of employment,  
 3 in which case the options terminate 90 days after the employee's termination date.

4 213. As detailed above, this statement was knowingly false and misleading because the  
 5 stock options purportedly dated February 1, 2000, April 28, 2000, May 24, 2000, May 30, 2000,  
 6 August 28, 2000 and October 11, 2000 were not granted at fair market value on the date of grant  
 7 but in fact had an exercise price less than the stock price on the actual date of grant. Defendants  
 8 Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knew the statement was false and misleading when they  
 9 made the representation in the 2000 Form 10-K because they were involved in the backdating of  
 10 the foregoing 2000 stock option grants.

11 214. Furthermore, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg caused Getty  
 12 Images to falsely state in the 2000 Form 10-K that, "[t]he Company applies Accounting  
 13 Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, 'Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees' and  
 14 related interpretations in accounting for its stock option plan. Accordingly, the Company  
 15 recognizes no compensation expense related to employee stock options as no options are granted  
 16 below the market price on the date of the grant." This statement was materially false and  
 17 misleading because Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knowingly granted stock options at  
 18 prices that were below fair market value on the date of the grant and failed to account for the in-  
 19 the-money options as required by APB 25.

20 215. The 2000 Form 10-K was signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Sporborg,  
 21 Bailey and Garb and because of their involvement in the backdating scheme, Getty, Klein,  
 22 Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knowingly approved the filing of the false Form 10-K for fiscal year  
 23 2000.

#### 24 The 2001 Form 10-K

25 216. On or about March 29, 2002, Getty Images filed its 2000 Report on Form 10-K  
 26 with the SEC. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg approved and signed the  
 27 Form 10-K that included Getty Images' 2001 financial statements, which they knew were

1 materially false and misleading and presented in violation of GAAP, due to improper accounting  
2 for the backdated stock options. As stated above, Audit Committee and Compensation  
3 Committee members Garb, Bailey and Sporborg, with the knowledge and participation of  
4 defendants Klein and Getty, knowingly backdated the stock option grants to March 30, 2001,  
5 May 7, 2001, June 26, 2001, July 17, 2001, July 23, 2001, October 9, 2001 and October 15, 2001  
6 when Getty Images' stock price was lower than the actual grant date. Defendants Klein, Getty,  
7 Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that the grants were approved on dates after the purported grant  
8 dates. Furthermore, these defendants granted these improperly priced and dated options for the  
9 benefit of Company insiders to the detriment of the Company. As a result, defendants Klein,  
10 Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that Getty Images' compensation expense was  
11 understated and its net earnings were overstated and thus knowingly approved the false Form 10-  
12 K for fiscal year 2001 filed on March 29, 2002.

13 217. In addition, Defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg made  
14 the following misrepresentations about the 1998 Plan in the 2001 Report on Form 10-K:

15 Under the Getty Images, Inc. 1998 Stock Incentive Plan (the Plan), the Board of  
16 Directors has the discretion to grant stock options underlying shares of common  
17 stock at the fair market value of the company's common stock on the date of  
18 grant. Options generally vest 25% on the first anniversary of the date of grant and  
19 on a monthly *pro rata* basis over three years thereafter and have a term of ten  
20 years.

21 A total of 13 million shares are reserved for issuance under the Plan. Shares under  
22 options that lapse are available for re-issuance. Options become exercisable when  
23 vested and remain exercisable through the remainder of the option term except  
24 upon termination of employment, in which case the options generally terminate 90  
25 days after the employee's termination date.

26 The company also issued, during 2001, options for a total of 134,999 shares  
27 outside of the Plan to two newly-hired executive officers and to three non-  
executive members of our Board of Directors. The terms of these options are  
substantially identical to those granted under the Plan.

218. As detailed above, this statement was knowingly false and misleading because the  
stock options purportedly dated March 30, 2001, May 7, 2001, June 26, 2001, July 17, 2001, July

23, 2001, October 9, 2001 and October 15, 2001 were not granted at fair market value on the date of grant but in fact had an exercise price less than the stock price on the actual date of grant. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knew the statement was false and misleading when they made the representation in the 2000 Form 10-K because they were involved in the backdating of the foregoing 2001 stock option grants.

219. Furthermore, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg caused Getty Images to falsely state in the 2001 Form 10-K that, "[t]he company applies Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, 'Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees' and related interpretations in accounting for stock options. Accordingly, the company recognizes no compensation expense related to employee stock options, as no options are granted below the market price on the date of the grant." This statement was materially false and misleading because Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knowingly granted stock options at prices that were below fair market value on the date of the grant and failed to account for the in-the-money options as required by APB 25.

220. The 2001 Form 10-K was signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb and because of their involvement in the backdating scheme, Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knowingly approved the filing of the false Form 10-K for fiscal year 2001.

The 2002 Form 10-K

221. On or about March 21, 2003, Getty Images filed its 2002 Report on Form 10-K with the SEC. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg approved and signed the Form 10-K that included Getty Images' 2002 financial statements, which they knew were materially false and misleading and presented in violation of GAAP, due to improper accounting for the backdated stock options. As stated above, Audit Committee and Compensation Committee members Garb, Bailey and Sporborg, with the knowledge and participation of defendants Klein and Getty, knowingly backdated the stock option grants to February 5, 2002 when Getty Images' stock price was lower than the actual grant date. Defendants Klein, Getty,



1 Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that the grant was approved at a later date. Furthermore, these  
2 defendants granted these improperly priced and dated options for the benefit of Company  
3 insiders to the detriment of the Company. As a result, defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and  
4 Sporborg knew that Getty Images' compensation expense was understated and its net earnings  
5 were overstated and thus knowingly approved the false Form 10-K for fiscal year 2002 filed on  
6 March 21, 2003.

7 222. In addition, Defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg made  
8 the following false and misleading statements about the 1998 Plan in the 2002 Report on Form  
9 10-K:

10 Under the Getty Images, Inc. 1998 Stock Incentive Plan (the Plan), the Board of  
11 Directors has the discretion to grant stock options underlying shares of common  
12 stock at the fair market value of the company's common stock on the grant date.  
13 Options generally have a 10-year term and a four-year vesting schedule, with 25%  
14 vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date and a *pro rata* portion vesting  
15 monthly over the remaining three years.

16 A total of 13 million shares are reserved for issuance under the Plan. Shares under  
17 options that lapse (due to cancellation or expiration) are available for re-issuance.  
18 Options become exercisable when vested and remain exercisable through the  
19 remainder of the option term except upon termination of employment, in which  
20 case the options generally terminate 90 days after the employee's termination  
21 date.

22 223. As detailed above, this statement was knowingly false and misleading because the  
23 stock options purportedly dated February 5, 2002 were not granted at fair market value on the  
24 date of grant but in fact had an exercise price less than the stock price on the actual date of grant.  
25 Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knew the statement was false and  
26 misleading when they made the representation in the 2002 Form 10-K because they were  
27 involved in the backdating of the stock option grants dated February 5, 2002, as detailed above.

28 224. Furthermore, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg caused Getty  
29 Images to falsely state in the 2002 Form 10-K that, "[t]he company applies Accounting  
30 Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, 'Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees' and

1 related interpretations in accounting for stock-based compensation. Accordingly, the company  
 2 recognizes no compensation expense related to the granting of employee stock options, as no  
 3 options are granted below the market price on the date of the grant.” This statement was  
 4 materially false and misleading because Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knowingly  
 5 granted stock options at prices that were below fair market value on the date of the grant and  
 6 failed to account for the in-the-money options as required by APB 25.

7 225. The 2002 Form 10-K was signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Sporborg,  
 8 Bailey and Garb and because of their involvement in the backdating scheme, Getty, Klein,  
 9 Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knowingly approved the filing of the false Form 10-K for fiscal year  
 10 2002.

11 226. Defendant Klein signed a Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18  
 12 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002,  
 13 which attested to the purported accuracy of the financial statements contained in the 2002 annual  
 14 report, the effectiveness of the internal controls, and compliance with Section 13(a) of the  
 15 Exchange Act, when he knew that this Certification was false and misleading. Because of his  
 16 involvement in the backdating scheme, Defendant Klein knew that the 2002 financial results  
 17 understated compensation expenses and overstated net income. In the 2002 Certification, Klein  
 18 made the following false and misleading certification: “(1) The Report fully complies with the  
 19 requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and (2) The  
 20 information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial  
 21 condition and results of operations of the Company.”

22 The 2003 Form 10-K

23 227. On or about March 12, 2004, Getty Images filed its 2003 Report on Form 10-K  
 24 with the SEC. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg approved and signed the  
 25 Form 10-K that included Getty Images’ 2003 financial statements as well as the 1999-2002  
 26 financial statements, which they knew were materially false and misleading and presented in  
 27 violation of GAAP, due to improper accounting for the backdated stock options. As stated

1 above, Audit Committee and Compensation Committee members Garb, Bailey and Sporborg,  
2 with the knowledge and participation of defendants Klein and Getty, knowingly backdated the  
3 1999-2002 stock option grants when Getty Images' stock price was lower than the actual grant  
4 dates. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that the grants were approved  
5 on dates after the purported grant dates. Furthermore, these defendants granted these improperly  
6 priced and dated options for the benefit of Company insiders to the detriment of the Company.  
7 As a result, defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that Getty Images'  
8 compensation expense was understated and its net earnings were overstated and thus knowingly  
9 approved the false Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003 filed on March 12, 2004.

10 228. In addition, Defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg made  
11 the following misrepresentations about the 1998 Plan in the 2003 Report on Form 10-K:

12 Under the Getty Images, Inc. 1998 Stock Incentive Plan (the Plan), the Board of  
13 Directors has the discretion to grant stock options underlying shares of common  
14 stock at the fair market value of our common stock on the grant date and other  
15 stock-based awards. Options generally have a 10-year term and a four-year  
16 vesting schedule, with 25% vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date and a  
17 pro rata portion vesting monthly over the remaining three years. The terms of  
18 other stock-based awards, such as restricted stock, vary from grant to grant.

19 A total of 13 million shares are reserved for issuance under the Plan. Shares under  
20 options and other stock-based awards that lapse due to cancellation or expiration  
21 are available for re-issuance. Options become exercisable when vested and remain  
22 exercisable through the remainder of the option term except upon termination of  
23 employment, in which case the options generally terminate 90 days after the  
24 employee's termination date.

25 229. As detailed above, this statement was knowingly false and misleading because the  
26 1999-2002 stock options were not granted at fair market value on the date of grant but in fact had  
27 an exercise price less than the stock price on the actual date of grant. Defendants Getty, Klein,  
Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knew the statement was false and misleading when they made the  
representation in the 2003 Form 10-K because they were involved in the backdating of those  
stock option grants.



1           230. Furthermore, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg caused Getty  
2 Images to falsely state in the 2003 Form 10-K that, “[w]e apply the intrinsic value provisions of  
3 Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, ‘Accounting for Stock Issued to  
4 Employees’ and related interpretations in accounting for employee stock-based compensation.  
5 We do not recognize compensation expense when granting employee stock options, as we do not  
6 grant options with exercise prices less than the market price of our common stock on the date of  
7 the grant.” This statement was materially false and misleading because Klein, Getty, Garb,  
8 Bailey and Sporborg knowingly granted stock options from 1999 to 2002 at prices that were  
9 below fair market value on the date of the grant and failed to account for the in-the-money  
10 options as required by APB 25.

11           231. The 2003 Form 10-K was signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Sporborg,  
12 Bailey and Garb and because of their involvement in the backdating scheme, Getty, Klein,  
13 Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knowingly approved the filing of the false Form 10-K for fiscal year  
14 2003.

15           232. Defendant Klein signed a Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18  
16 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002,  
17 which attested to the purported accuracy of the financial statements contained in the 2003 annual  
18 report, the effectiveness of the internal controls, and compliance with Section 13(a) of the  
19 Exchange Act, when he knew that this Certification was false and misleading. Because of his  
20 involvement in the backdating scheme, Defendant Klein knew that the 2003 financial results  
21 understated compensation expenses and overstated net income. In the 2003 Certification, Klein  
22 made the following false and misleading certification: “(1) The Form 10-K fully complies with  
23 the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C.  
24 78m or 78o(d)); and (2) The information contained in the Form 10-K fairly presents, in all  
25 material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.”  
26  
27



1 The 2004 Form 10-K

2 233. On or about March 11, 2005, Getty Images filed its 2004 Report on Form 10-K  
 3 with the SEC. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg approved and signed the  
 4 Form 10-K that included Getty Images' 2004 financial statements as well as the 2000-2002  
 5 financial statements, which they knew were materially false and misleading and presented in  
 6 violation of GAAP, due to improper accounting for the backdated stock options. As stated  
 7 above, Audit Committee and Compensation Committee members Garb, Bailey and Sporborg,  
 8 with the knowledge and participation of defendants Klein and Getty, knowingly backdated the  
 9 2000-2002 stock option grants when Getty Images' stock price was lower than the actual grant  
 10 dates. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that the grants were approved  
 11 on later dates than those reported. Furthermore, these defendants granted these improperly priced  
 12 and dated options for the benefit of Company insiders to the detriment of the Company. As a  
 13 result, defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that Getty Images'  
 14 compensation expense was understated and its net earnings were overstated and thus knowingly  
 15 approved the false Form 10-K for fiscal year 2004 filed on March 11, 2005.

16 234. In addition, Defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg made  
 17 the following misrepresentations about the 1998 Plan in the 2004 Report on Form 10-K:

18 **ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL**  
 19 **OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER**  
 20 **MATTERS**

21 Under the Getty Images, Inc. 1998 Stock Incentive Plan (the Plan), the Board of  
 22 Directors has the discretion to grant stock options underlying shares of common  
 23 stock at the fair market value of our common stock on the grant date and other  
 24 stock-based awards. Options generally have a 10-year term and a four-year  
 25 vesting schedule, with 25% vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date and a  
 26 pro rata portion vesting monthly over the remaining three years. The terms of  
 27 other stock-based awards, such as restricted stock, vary from grant to grant.

\* \* \*

**NOTE 8. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION**

1 Under the Getty Images, Inc. 1998 Stock Incentive Plan (the Plan), the Board of  
2 Directors has the discretion to grant stock options underlying shares of common  
3 stock at the fair market value of our common stock on the grant date and other  
4 stock-based awards. As detailed above, this statement was knowingly false and  
5 misleading because the 1999-2002 stock options were not granted at fair market  
6 value on the date of grant but in fact had an exercise price less than the stock price  
7 on the actual date of grant. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb  
8 knew the statement was false and misleading when they made the representation  
9 in the 2003 Form 10-K because they were involved in the backdating of those  
10 stock option grants, as detailed above.

11 235. The above statements were materially false and misleading because Defendants  
12 Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knowingly granted stock options from 1999 to 2002 at  
13 prices that were below fair market value on the date of the grant and failed to account for the in-  
14 the-money options as required by APB 25.

15 236. Furthermore, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg caused Getty  
16 Images to falsely state in the 2004 Form 10-K that, "[w]e apply the intrinsic value provisions of  
17 Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, 'Accounting for Stock Issued to  
18 Employees' and related interpretations in accounting for employee stock-based compensation.  
19 We do not recognize compensation expense when granting employee stock options, as we do not  
20 grant options with exercise prices less than the market price of our common stock on the date of  
21 the grant." This statement was materially false and misleading because Klein, Getty, Garb,  
22 Bailey and Sporborg knowingly granted stock options from 1999 to 2002 at prices that were  
23 below fair market value on the date of the grant and failed to account for the in-the-money  
24 options as required by APB 25.

25 237. The 2004 Form 10-K was signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Sporborg,  
26 Bailey and Garb and because of their involvement in the backdating scheme, Getty, Klein,  
27 Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knowingly approved the filing of the false Form 10-K for fiscal year  
2004.

28 238. Defendant Klein signed a Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18  
U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002,

1 which attested to the purported accuracy of the financial statements contained in the 2004 annual  
 2 report, the effectiveness of the internal controls, and compliance with Section 13(a) of the  
 3 Exchange Act, when he knew that this Certification was false and misleading. Because of his  
 4 involvement in the backdating scheme, Defendant Klein knew that the 2004 financial results  
 5 understated compensation expenses and overstated net income. In the 2004 Certification, Klein  
 6 made the following false and misleading certification: "(1) The Form 10-K fully complies with  
 7 the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C.  
 8 78m or 78o(d)); and (2) The information contained in the Form 10-K fairly presents, in all  
 9 material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company."

#### 10 The 2005 Form 10-K

11 239. On or about March 9, 2006, Getty Images filed its 2005 Report on Form 10-K  
 12 with the SEC. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg approved and signed the  
 13 Form 10-K that included Getty Images' 2005 financial statements as well as the 2001-2002  
 14 financial statements, which they knew were materially false and misleading and presented in  
 15 violation of GAAP, due to improper accounting for the backdated stock options. As stated  
 16 above, Audit Committee and Compensation Committee members Garb, Bailey and Sporborg,  
 17 with the knowledge and participation of defendants Klein and Getty, knowingly backdated the  
 18 2001-2002 stock option grants when Getty Images' stock price was lower than the actual grant  
 19 date. Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that the grants were approved at  
 20 a later date. Furthermore, these defendants granted these improperly priced and dated options for  
 21 the benefit of Company insiders to the detriment of the Company. As a result, defendants Klein,  
 22 Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that Getty Images' compensation expense was  
 23 understated and its net earnings were overstated and thus knowingly approved the false Form 10-  
 24 K for fiscal year 2005 filed on March 9, 2006.

25 240. Furthermore, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg caused Getty  
 26 Images to falsely state in the 2005 Form 10-K that, "[w]e apply the intrinsic value provisions of  
 27 Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, 'Accounting for Stock Issued to



Employees' and related interpretations in accounting for employee stock-based compensation. We do not recognize compensation expense when issuing stock options as, according to the terms of our 2005 Incentive Plan, we are not able issue stock options with exercise prices less than the market price of our common stock on the date of the issuance." This statement was materially false and misleading because Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knowingly granted stock options from 1999 to 2002 at prices that were below fair market value on the date of the grant and failed to account for the in-the-money options as required by APB 25.

241. The 2005 Form 10-K was signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb and because of their involvement in the backdating scheme, Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knowingly approved the filing of the false Form 10-K for fiscal year 2005.

242. Defendant Klein signed a Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which attested to the purported accuracy of the financial statements contained in the 2005 annual report, the effectiveness of the internal controls, and compliance with Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, when he knew that this Certification was false and misleading. Because of his involvement in the backdating scheme, Defendant Klein knew that the 2005 financial results understated compensation expenses and overstated net income. In the 2005 Certification, Klein made the following false and misleading certification: "(1) The Form 10-K fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o(d)); and (2) The information contained in the Form 10-K fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company."

#### The 2005 Form 10-K/A

243. On or about March 10, 2006, Getty Images filed its Amended 2005 Report on Form 10-K/A with the SEC where Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knowingly made the same false and misleading statements as those in the initial 2005 Form 10-K. Again, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg approved and signed the Form



1 10-K/A that included Getty Images' 2005 financial statements as well as the 2001-2002 financial  
2 statements, which they knew were materially false and misleading and presented in violation of  
3 GAAP, due to improper accounting for the backdated stock options. As stated above, Audit  
4 Committee and Compensation Committee members Garb, Bailey and Sporborg, with the  
5 knowledge and participation of defendants Klein and Getty, knowingly backdated the 2001-2002  
6 stock option grants when Getty Images' stock price was lower than the actual grant date.  
7 Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that the grants were approved at a  
8 later date. Furthermore, these defendants granted these improperly priced and dated options for  
9 the benefit of Company insiders to the detriment of the Company. As a result, defendants Klein,  
10 Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knew that Getty Images' compensation expense was  
11 understated and its net earnings were overstated and thus knowingly approved the false Form 10-  
12 K/A for fiscal year 2005 filed on March 10, 2006.

13 244. Furthermore, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg caused Getty  
14 Images to falsely state in the 2005 Form 10-K/A that, "We apply the intrinsic value provisions of  
15 Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, 'Accounting for Stock Issued to  
16 Employees' and related interpretations in accounting for employee stock-based compensation.  
17 We do not recognize compensation expense when issuing stock options as, according to the  
18 terms of our 2005 Incentive Plan, we are not able issue stock options with exercise prices less  
19 than the market price of our common stock on the date of the issuance." This statement was  
20 materially false and misleading because Klein, Getty, Garb, Bailey and Sporborg knowingly  
21 granted stock options from 1999 to 2002 at prices that were below fair market value on the date  
22 of the grant and failed to account for the in-the-money options as required by APB 25.

23 245. The 2005 Form 10-K/A was signed by defendants Getty, Klein, Huebner,  
24 Sporborg, Bailey and Garb and because of their involvement in the backdating scheme, Getty,  
25 Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knowingly approved the filing of the false Form 10-K/A for  
26 fiscal year 2005.

27 246. Defendant Klein signed a Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18

U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which attested to the purported accuracy of the financial statements contained in the Amended 2005 annual report, the effectiveness of the internal controls, and compliance with Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, when he knew that this Certification was false and misleading. Because of his involvement in the backdating scheme, Defendant Klein knew that the 2005 financial results understated compensation expenses and overstated net income. In the 2005 Certification, Klein made the following false and misleading certification: “(1) The Form 10-K fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o(d)); and (2) The information contained in the Form 10-K fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.”

#### **Defendants’ Concealment of their Misconduct**

247. Defendants Bailey, Sporborg and Garb, with the knowledge and participation of Defendants Getty and Klein, caused Getty Images to issue false proxy statements in connection with the Company’s annual shareholder meetings and periodically for special shareholder meetings during the relevant period. These defendants prepared and/or reviewed the 2000-2003 proxy statements before the statements were disseminated to shareholders and filed with the SEC. Moreover, Bailey, Sporborg Garb, Getty and Klein knew that the proxies were materially false and misleading as they participated in the backdating of stock option grants from April 1999 to February 2002.

248. Getty Images shareholders routinely relied upon the false and misleading proxy statements issued by the Company and voted for the Company’s stock option plans under which these defendants backdated stock option grants in order to benefit Company insiders at the expense of the Company and its shareholders.

249. From 2000 to 2003, the Company, with the knowledge, approval, and participation of Defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, for the purpose and with the effect of concealing the improper option backdating, disseminated to shareholders and filed with the SEC annual proxy statements that falsely reported the dates of stock option grants to

Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Barga and Woodhouse and falsely stated that the exercise price of the options granted to these defendants was "equal to the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock of the Company on the date of grant."

The 2000 Proxy Statement

250. The Company's proxy statement filed with the SEC on April 7, 2000 falsely reported that options granted to Powell and von Barga were granted on April 9, 1999, options granted to Roling were granted on May 4, 1999 and August 3, 1999, options granted to Powell were granted on July 6, 1999, and other options granted to Klein, Getty, Roling, Powell and von Barga were granted on October 22, 1999, when in fact these grants were actually approved on later dates by Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg.

251. In the proxy statement filed on April 7, 2000, the Compensation Committee (Defendants Bailey, Sporborg and Garb), made the following representations about Getty Image's stock option grants:

All options granted by Getty Images following the consummation of the Transactions have been granted under, and governed by, the Plan, which was adopted by the Company in connection with the Transactions. Options granted by the Compensation Committee under the Plan have been made at fair market value (based on the average of the high and low prices of the Company's Common Stock on the date of grant), vest over a period of four years, 25% on the first anniversary of the grant date and monthly on a pro rata basis thereafter, and expire after ten years from the date of grant (with the exception of certain options granted to executive officers upon the consummation of the Transactions that became fully exercisable upon the first anniversary of the date of grant).

252. Each of the above statements concerning the 1998 Plan and the value of the stock options on the date of grant was knowingly false and misleading because the option grants to Defendants Powell and von Barga dated April 9, 1999, options grants to Roling dated May 4, 1999 and August 3, 1999, and options granted to Klein, Getty, Roling, Powell and von Barga dated October 22, 1999 were, in fact, backdated. Thus, these grants were granted at less than fair market value as reported by Compensation Committee members Bailey, Sporborg and Garb and

1 as prohibited by the 1998 Plan. Contrary to the above representations, none of the backdated  
2 options was ever approved by the shareholders, nor were shareholders ever aware of this illicit  
3 compensation.

4 253. Moreover, the Report of the Compensation Committee disclosed in the 2000  
5 proxy statement falsely stated “[s]tock options are an integral part of executive officers  
6 compensation and are utilized by the Company to provide an incentive to the officer, and to align  
7 the interests of the executive with those of the Stockholders by providing him with a financial  
8 interest in the company,” when in fact the backdated stock options provided the officers with  
9 immediate profits regardless of the Company’s stock performance.

10 The 2001 Proxy Statement

11 254. Getty Images’ proxy statement filed with the SEC on April 6, 2001 falsely  
12 reported that options granted to Getty and Klein were granted on May 24, 2000 and options  
13 granted to Albers were granted on August 28, 2000 and October 11, 2000, when in fact these  
14 grants were actually approved on later dates by Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg.

15 255. In the proxy statement filed on April 6, 2001, the Compensation Committee  
16 (Defendants Bailey, Sporborg and Garb), made the following representations about Getty  
17 Image’s stock option grants:

18 All options granted by Getty Images following the consummation of the merger of  
19 the businesses of Getty Communications plc and PhotoDisc, Inc. (the  
20 “Transactions”), have been granted under, and governed by, the Getty Images,  
21 Inc. 1998 Stock Incentive Plan (“the Stock Incentive Plan”), which was adopted  
22 by the Company in connection with the Transactions. Options granted by the  
23 Compensation Committee under the Stock Incentive Plan have been made at fair  
24 market value (based on the average of the high and low prices of the Company’s  
25 Common Stock on the date of grant), vest over a period of four years, 25% on the  
26 first anniversary of the grant date and monthly on a *pro rata* basis thereafter, and  
27 expire after ten years from the date of grant (with the exception of certain options  
granted to executive officers upon the consummation of the Transactions that  
became fully exercisable upon the first anniversary of the date of grant and a grant  
made to Mr. Evans-Lombe in April 2000, which had a two-year vesting schedule).

256. Each of the above statements concerning the 1998 Plan and the value of the stock



options on the date of grant was knowingly false and misleading because the option grants to Defendants Getty and Klein dated May 24, 2000 and options granted to Defendants Albers purportedly dated August 28, 2000 and October 11, 2000 were, in fact, backdated. Thus, these grants were granted at less than fair market value as reported by Compensation Committee members Bailey, Sporborg and Garb and as prohibited by the 1998 Plan. Contrary to the above representations, none of the backdated options was ever approved by the shareholders, nor were shareholders ever aware of this illicit compensation.

257. Moreover, the Report of the Compensation Committee disclosed in the 2001 proxy statement falsely stated “[s]tock options are an integral part of an executive officer’s compensation and are utilized by the Company to provide an incentive to the executive officer, and to align the interests of the executive officer with those of the Stockholders by providing the executive officer with a financial interest in the Company,” when in fact the backdated stock options provided the officers with immediate profits regardless of the Company’s stock performance.

#### The 2002 Proxy Statement

258. Getty Images’ proxy statement filed with the SEC on April 19, 2002, falsely reported that options granted to Klein, Getty, von Bargaen, Huebner and Albers were granted on March 30, 2001, options granted to Klein, Getty, Huebner and Albers were granted on October 15, 2001, and other options granted to Klein were granted on May 7, 2001 and June 26, 2001, when in fact these grants were actually approved on later dates by Defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg.

259. In the proxy statement filed on April 19, 2002, the Compensation Committee (Defendants Bailey, Sporborg and Garb), made the following representations about Getty Image’s stock option grants:

The Compensation Committee may grant either incentive stock options, which comply with Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code, or nonqualified stock options. The Compensation Committee sets option exercise prices and terms; however, the exercise price of an incentive stock option may not be less than

1 100% of the fair market value on the date of the grant (for these purposes, “fair  
 2 market value” means the average of the high and low per share trading prices for  
 3 the common stock on the date of grant as reported on the Nasdaq National  
 4 Market). The fair market value on March 1, 2002, was \$26.31. Typically, options  
 5 do not vest unless the recipient remains employed or continues to provide services  
 6 to us for at least 12 months after grant. The term of a stock option may not be  
 7 more than ten years.

8 260. Each of the above statements concerning the value of the stock options on the date  
 9 of grant was knowingly false and misleading because the options granted to Defendants Klein,  
 10 Getty, von Bargaen, Huebner and Albers dated March 30, 2001, options granted to Klein, Getty,  
 11 Huebner and Albers dated October 15, 2001, and options granted to Klein dated May 7, 2001  
 12 and June 26, 2001 were, in fact, backdated. Thus, these grants were issued at less than fair  
 13 market value as reported by Compensation Committee members Bailey, Sporborg and Garb and  
 14 as prohibited by the 1998 Plan. Contrary to the above representations, none of the backdated  
 15 options were ever approved by the shareholders, nor were shareholders ever aware of this illicit  
 16 compensation.

17 261. Moreover, the Report of the Compensation Committee disclosed in the 2002  
 18 proxy statement falsely stated “[s]tock options are an integral part of an executive officer’s  
 19 compensation. We use stock options to provide an incentive to the executive officer, and to align  
 20 the interests of the executive officer with those of our stockholders by providing the executive  
 21 officer with a financial interest in the Company,” when in fact the backdated stock options  
 22 provided the officers with immediate profits regardless of the Company’s stock performance.

#### 23 False Form 4s

24 262. From 1999 to 2006, the Company, with the knowledge, approval, and  
 25 participation of each of Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, for the purpose and with the  
 26 effect of concealing the improper option backdating, filed with the SEC Form 4’s that falsely  
 27 reported the dates of stock option grants to the following defendants:

- a. von Bargaen’s Form 4 filed with the SEC on May 5, 1999 falsely reported that  
 options granted to von Bargaen had been granted on April 9, 1999;

- b. Albers' Form 4 filed with the SEC on November 4, 2002 falsely reported that options granted to Albers had been granted on August 28, 2000, October 11, 2000, March 30, 2001 and October 15, 2001;
- c. Huebner's Form 4 filed with the SEC on November 7, 2002 falsely reported that options granted to Huebner had been granted on March 30, 2001 and October 15, 2001;
- d. Getty's Form 4 filed with the SEC on December 19, 2002 falsely reported that options granted to Getty had been granted on October 22, 1999, April 28, 2000, March 30, 2001 and October 15, 2001;
- e. Klein's Form 4 filed with the SEC on December 19, 2002 falsely reported that options granted to Klein had been granted on October 22, 1999, April 28, 2000, March 30, 2001, May 7, 2001, June 26, 2001 and October 15, 2001;
- f. Woodhouse's Form 4 filed with the SEC on December 19, 2002 falsely reported that options granted to Woodhouse had been granted on October 25, 1999, October 11, 2000 and March 30, 2001;
- g. Evans-Lombe's Form 4 filed with the SEC on January 6, 2003 falsely reported that options granted to Evans-Lombe had been granted on May 04, 1999, July 27, 1999, October 22, 1999, March 30, 2001, October 15, 2001 and February 5, 2002;
- h. Miskimens' Form 4 filed with the SEC on January 28, 2003 falsely reported that options granted to Miskimens had been granted on May 30, 2000, March 30, 2001, July 17, 2001 and October 9, 2001;
- i. Albers' Form 4 filed with the SEC on February 11, 2003 falsely reported that options granted to Albers had been granted on August 28, 2000, October 11, 2000, March 30, 2001 and October 15, 2001;
- j. Klein's Form 4's filed with the SEC on February 12, 2003, March 25, 2003, April 24, 2003, April 30, 2003, September 8, 2003, September 17, 2003, September 23, 2003, September 30, 2003, October 7, 2003, October 14, 2003, October 21, 2003, October 24, 2003, October 28, 2003, November 4, 2003 and November 12, 2003 falsely reported that options granted to Klein had been granted on October 22, 1999, April 28, 2000, March 30, 2001, May 7, 2001, June 26, 2001 and October 15, 2001;
- k. Albers' Form 4 filed with the SEC on February 12, 2003 falsely reported that options granted to Albers had been granted on August 28, 2000, March 30, 2001 and October 15, 2001;

- 1 l. Albers' Form 4 filed with the SEC on March 6, 2003 falsely reported that options  
2 granted to Albers had been granted on August 28, 2000, October 11, 2000, March  
3 30, 2001 and October 15, 2001;
- 4 m. Evans-Lombe's Form 4 filed with the SEC on May 15, 2003 falsely reported that  
5 options granted to Evans-Lombe had been granted on March 30, 2001 and  
6 October 15, 2001;
- 7 n. Woodhouse's Form 4 filed with the SEC on May 16, 2003 falsely reported that  
8 options granted to Woodhouse had been granted on October 15, 2001;
- 9 o. Miskimens' Form 4 filed with the SEC on May 19, 2003 falsely reported that  
10 options granted to Miskimens had been granted on March 30, 2001 and July 17,  
11 2001;
- 12 p. Blackwell's Form 4 filed with the SEC on May 28, 2003 falsely reported that  
13 options granted to Blackwell had been granted on October 15, 2001;
- 14 q. Klein's Form 4 filed with the SEC on May 28, 2003 falsely reported that options  
15 granted to Klein had been granted on October 15, 2001;
- 16 r. Gurke's Form 4 filed with the SEC on October 22, 2003 falsely reported that  
17 options granted to Gurke had been granted on August 3, 1999, October 22, 1999,  
18 February 1, 2000, March 30, 2001 and October 9, 2001;
- 19 s. Ferguson's Form 4's filed with the SEC on October 23, 2003 and November 5,  
20 2003 falsely reported that options granted to Ferguson had been granted on  
21 August 03, 1999, October 22, 1999, February 1, 2000, March 30, 2001 and  
22 October 9, 2001;
- 23 t. Huebner's Form 4 filed with the SEC on October 28, 2003 falsely reported that  
24 options granted to Huebner had been granted on March 30, 2001 and October 15,  
25 2001;
- 26 u. Beyle's Form 4's filed with the SEC on October 28, 2003 and November 3, 2003  
27 falsely reported that options granted to Beyle had been granted on March 30,  
2001, July 17, 2001 and October 15, 2001;
- v. Woodhouse's Form 4 filed with the SEC on November 14, 2003 falsely reported  
that options granted to Woodhouse had been granted on March 30, 2001, July 17,  
2001 and October 15, 2001;
- w. Beyle's Form 4 filed with the SEC on February 11, 2004 falsely reported that  
options granted to Beyle had been granted on March 30, 2001;



- 1 x. Miskimens' Form 4 filed with the SEC on February 13, 2004 falsely reported that  
2 options granted to Miskimens had been granted on October 9, 2001;
- 3 y. Klein's Form 4 filed with the SEC on February 18, 2004, February 24, 2004,  
4 March 2, 2004, March 9, 2004 falsely reported that options granted to Klein had  
5 been granted on October 15, 2001;
- 6 z. Sporborg's Form 4 filed with the SEC on March 8, 2004 falsely reported that  
7 options granted to Sporborg had been granted on July 23, 2001;
- 8 aa. Klein's Form 4 filed with the SEC on March 17, 2004, March 18, 2004, March  
9 23, 2004 and March 30, 2004 falsely reported that options granted to Klein had  
10 been granted on March 30, 2001;
- 11 bb. Klein's Form 4 filed with the SEC on April 5, 2004 falsely reported that options  
12 granted to Klein had been granted on October 22, 1999 and March 30, 2001;
- 13 cc. Huebner's Form 4 filed with the SEC on April 29, 2004 falsely reported that  
14 options granted to Huebner had been granted on March 30, 2001;
- 15 dd. Beyle's Form 4 filed with the SEC on April 29, 2004 falsely reported that options  
16 granted to Beyle had been granted on March 30, 2001 and July 17, 2001;
- 17 ee. Klein's Form 4 filed with the SEC on May 5, 2004 and May 12, 2004 falsely  
18 reported that options granted to Klein had been granted on May 7, 2001;
- 19 ff. Woodhouse's Form 4 filed with the SEC on May 10, 2004 falsely reported that  
20 options granted to Woodhouse had been granted on March 30, 2001 and July 17,  
21 2001;
- 22 gg. Klein's Form 4's filed with the SEC on May 19, 2004, May 26, 2004, June 2,  
23 2004, June 15, 2004, June 22, 2004, June 30, 2004, July 2, 2004 and July 7, 2004  
24 falsely reported that options granted to Klein had been granted on May 7, 2001;
- 25 hh. Ferguson's Form 4 filed with the SEC on May 20, 2004 falsely reported that  
26 options granted to Ferguson had been granted on August 3, 1999 and October 22,  
27 1999;
- ii. Klein's Form 4's filed with the SEC on July 7, 2004, July 14, 2004, July 20, 2004,  
July 21, 2004, December 2, 2004, December 8, 2004, December 14, 2004,  
December 21, 2004 and December 28, 2004 falsely reported that options granted  
to Klein had been granted on June 26, 2001.

- 1       jj.     Ferguson's Form 4 filed with the SEC on August 31, 2004 falsely reported that  
2             options granted to Ferguson had been granted on October 22, 1999 and October 9,  
3             2001.
- 4       kk.     Evans-Lombe's Form 4 filed with the SEC on September 1, 2004 falsely reported  
5             that options granted to Evans-Lombe had been granted on July 27, 1999 and  
6             October 22, 1999;
- 7       ll.     Woodhouse's Form 4 filed with the SEC on September 02, 2004 falsely reported  
8             that options granted to Woodhouse had been granted on October 25, 1999;
- 9       mm.     Beyle's Form 4 filed with the SEC on November 5, 2004 falsely reported that  
10            options granted to Beyle had been granted on March 30, 2001 and July 17, 2001;
- 11       nn.     Sporborg's Form 4 filed with the SEC on November 5, 2004 falsely reported that  
12            options granted to Sporborg had been granted on July 23, 2001;
- 13       oo.     Getty's Form 4 filed with the SEC on November 16, 2004 falsely reported that  
14            options granted to Getty had been granted on October 22, 1999 and October 15,  
15            2001;
- 16       pp.     Ferguson's Form 4 filed with the SEC on November 17, 2004 falsely reported that  
17            options granted to Ferguson had been granted on March 30, 2001 and October 9,  
18            2001;
- 19       qq.     Gurke's Form 4 filed with the SEC on April 26, 2005 falsely reported that options  
20            granted to Gurke had been granted on August 3, 1999, October 22, 1999 and  
21            February 1, 2000;
- 22       rr.     Beyle's Form 4 filed with the SEC on April 26, 2005 falsely reported that options  
23            granted to Beyle had been granted on March 30, 2001 and July 17, 2001;
- 24       ss.     Ferguson's Form 4 filed with the SEC on April 27, 2005 falsely reported that  
25            options granted to Ferguson had been granted on February 1, 2000 and March 30,  
26            2001;
- 27       tt.     Gurke's Form 4 filed with the SEC on August 1, 2005 falsely reported that  
              options granted to Gurke had been granted on March 30, 2001 and October 9,  
              2001;
- uu.     Huebner's Form 4 filed with the SEC on August 2, 2005 falsely reported that  
              options granted to Huebner had been granted on March 30, 2001;
- vv.     Beyle's Form 4 filed with the SEC on August 2, 2005 falsely reported that options  
              granted to Beyle had been granted on July 17, 2001;

- ww. Sporborg's Form 4 filed with the SEC on August 8, 2005 falsely reported that options granted to Sporborg had been granted on July 23, 2001;
- xx. Evans-Lombe's Form 4 filed with the SEC on August 29, 2005 falsely reported that options granted to Evans-Lombe had been granted on May 4, 1999, October 22, 1999 and October 15, 2001; and
- yy. Getty's Form 4 filed with the SEC on January 3, 2006 falsely reported that options granted to Getty had been granted on March 30, 2001 and October 15, 2001.

### **Revelation of Options Backdating at Getty Images**

263. Defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg continued to conceal their foregoing misconduct until November 9, 2006, when the Company issued a press release, announcing an internal review of its historical stock option grants resulting from an SEC investigation:

Getty Images, Inc. (NYSE: GYI), the world's leading creator and distributor of visual content, today announced that its board of directors has established a special committee to conduct an internal investigation relating to the Company's stock option grant practices and related accounting for stock option grants. This review is being conducted with the assistance of outside legal counsel retained by the special committee.

The Division of Enforcement of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") had earlier notified the Company that it is conducting an informal inquiry into the Company's stock option grant practices, and has requested that the Company provide the SEC with certain information relating to the Company's stock option grant practices. The Company is cooperating fully with the SEC in this informal inquiry.

264. As a result of the SEC inquiry, Getty's Board announced the same day that they had established the Special Committee to conduct an investigation relating to the Company's equity compensation grant practices and related accounting for equity compensation grants. The Special Committee consisted of two members of Getty Image's Board of Directors, Alan G. Spoon and Michael A. Stein, the chair of Getty Image's Audit Committee.

265. On April 16, 2007, the Company issued a press release admitting that their stock option grants have incorrect measurement dates that must be adjusted.

266. On June 13, 2007, the Company filed its restatement of its financial results adjusting for \$27 million in additional compensation expenses.

### **INSIDER SELLING**

267. During the relevant period, Defendants Klein, Getty, Garb and Sporborg, while in possession of materially adverse non-public information regarding the backdating of stock options and the false financial statements resulting therefrom, sold over \$3 million shares of Getty Images stock with a total proceeds of over \$169 million, a significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options, as shown in the chart below. Specifically, Getty, from 2003 to 2006, sold 1,407,635 shares with total proceeds of \$76,183,332.60, and Klein, from 1999 to 2006, sold 1,763,585 shares with total proceeds of \$92,852,893.80, as shown below:

Name	Date of Transaction	Shares Sold	Proceeds
Garb	6/2/2005	3,500	\$262,850.00
Getty	11/11/03 to 1/3/06	1,407,635	\$76,183,332.60
Klein	2/25/99 to 1/20/06	1,763,585	\$92,852,893.80
Sporborg	3/4/04 to 8/4/05	9,583	\$577,309.86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2/25/99 to 1/20/06</b>	<b>3,184,303</b>	<b>\$169,876,386.26</b>

### **GETTY IMAGES' FALSE FINANCIAL REPORTING IN VIOLATION OF GAAP, SEC REGULATIONS AND IRS RULES**

268. As a result of Defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg's improper backdating of stock options, Defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg caused Getty Images to violate GAAP, SEC regulations and IRS rules and regulations.

269. Getty Images' financial results for 1999 through 2005 were included in reports filed with the SEC and in other shareholder reports. In these reports, Defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg represented that Getty Images' financial results were presented in a fair manner and in accordance with GAAP.



270. Defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg's representations were false and misleading as to the financial information reported, as such financial information was not prepared in conformity with GAAP, nor was the financial information "a fair presentation" of the Company's financial condition and operations, causing the financial results to be presented in violation of GAAP and SEC rules.

271. GAAP consists of those principles recognized by the accounting profession as the conventions, rules, and procedures necessary to define accepted accounting practice at the particular time. Regulation S-X, to which the Company is subject as a registrant under the Exchange Act, 17 C.F.R. §210.4-01(a)(1), provides that financial statements filed with the SEC, which are not prepared in compliance with GAAP, are presumed to be misleading and inaccurate.

#### **Violations of GAAP**

272. During the relevant period, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb caused the Company to understate its compensation expense by not properly accounting for its stock options under GAAP and thus overstated the Company's net earnings.

273. Under well-settled accounting principles in effect throughout the relevant period, Getty Images did not need to record an expense for options granted to employees at the current market price (at-the-money). The Company was, however, required to record an expense in its financial statements for any options granted below the current market price (in-the-money). In order to provide Getty Images executives and employees with far more lucrative in-the-money options, while avoiding having to inform shareholders about millions of dollars incurred by the Company in compensation expenses (and without paying the IRS millions of dollars in employment taxes), Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb systematically falsified Company records to create the false appearance that options had been granted at the market price on an earlier date.

274. Throughout the relevant period, Getty Images accounted for stock options using the intrinsic method described in APB 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees." Under

1 APB 25, employers were required to record as an expense on their financial statements the  
 2 “intrinsic value” of a fixed stock option on its “measurement date.” An option that is in-the-  
 3 money on the measurement date has intrinsic value, and the difference between its exercise price  
 4 and the quoted market price must be recorded as compensation expense to be recognized over  
 5 the vesting period of the option. Options that are at-the-money or out-of-the-money on the  
 6 measurement date need not be expensed. Excluding non-employee directors, APB 25 required  
 7 employers to record compensation expenses on options granted to non-employees irrespective of  
 8 whether they were in-the-money or not on the date of grant.

### 9 **Getty Images’ GAAP Violations Were Material**

10 275. Getty Images’ false and misleading relevant period statements and omissions  
 11 regarding its accounting were material, particularly in light of SEC guidance on materiality.  
 12 SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin (“SAB”) Topic 1M, Materiality, summarizes GAAP definitions  
 13 of materiality. Among other items, SAB Topic 1M says: “A matter is ‘material’ if there is a  
 14 substantial likelihood that a reasonable person would consider it important.” It also stresses that  
 15 materiality requires qualitative, as well as quantitative, considerations. For example, if a known  
 16 misstatement would cause a significant market reaction, that reaction should be taken into  
 17 account in determining the materiality of the misstatement.

18 276. SAB Topic 1M further states:

19 among the considerations that may well render material a  
 20 quantitatively small misstatement of a financial statement item are –

21 \* \* \*

22 whether the misstatement masks a change in earnings or other  
 23 trends

24 whether the misstatement hides a failure to meet analysts’  
 25 consensus expectations for the enterprise

26 \* \* \*

whether the misstatement concerns a segment or other portion of the registrant's business that has been identified as playing a significant role in the registrant's operations or profitability.

277. SAB Topic 1M also says that an intentional misstatement of even immaterial items may be illegal and constitute fraudulent financial reporting.

278. Getty Images' misstatements satisfy these criteria and thus were material from both a quantitative and qualitative perspective.

**Getty Images' Financial Statements Violated Fundamental Concepts of GAAP**

279. Due to these accounting improprieties, the Company presented its financial results and statements in a manner that violated GAAP, which are described by the following statements:

- (a) The principle that interim financial reporting should be based upon the same accounting principles and practices used to prepare annual financial statements (APB No. 28, ¶10);
- (b) The principle that financial reporting should provide information that is useful to existing and potential investors and creditors and other users in making rational investment, credit and similar decisions (FASB Statement of Concepts No. 1, ¶34);
- (c) The principle that financial reporting should provide information about the economic resources of an enterprise, the claims to those resources, and the effects of transactions, events and circumstances that change resources and claims to those resources (Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Statement of Concepts No. 1, ¶40);
- (d) The principle that financial reporting should provide information about how management of an enterprise has discharged its stewardship responsibility to stockholders for the use of enterprise resources entrusted to it. To the extent that management offers securities of the enterprise to the public, it voluntarily accepts wider responsibilities for accountability to prospective investors and to the public in general (FASB Statement of Concepts No. 1, ¶50);
- (e) The principle that financial reporting should be reliable in that it represents what it purports to represent (FASB Statement of Concepts No. 2, ¶¶58-59);

- 1 (f) The principle of completeness, which means that nothing is left out of the  
 2 information that may be necessary to insure that it validly represents underlying  
 3 events and conditions (FASB Statement of Concepts No. 2, ¶¶79); and
- 4 (g) The principle that conservatism be used as a prudent reaction to uncertainty to try  
 5 to ensure that uncertainties and risks inherent in business situations are adequately  
 6 considered (FASB Statement of Concepts No. 2, ¶¶95, 97).

7 280. Further, the undisclosed adverse information concealed by Defendants Getty,  
 8 Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb during the relevant period is the type of information which,  
 9 because of SEC regulations, regulations of the national stock exchanges and customary business  
 10 practice, is expected by investors and securities analysts to be disclosed and is known by  
 11 corporate officials and their legal and financial advisors to be the type of information which is  
 12 expected to be and must be disclosed.

#### 12 Getty Images' Financial Statements Violated SEC Regulations

13 281. During the relevant period, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb  
 14 caused Getty Images to violate SEC regulations by failing to disclose that the Company's senior  
 15 executives had been granted backdated stock options.

16 282. Under SEC Regulations, Item 8 of Form 14-A and Item 11 of Form 10-K, an  
 17 issuer must furnish information required by Item 402 of Regulation S-K [17 C.F.R. §229.303].  
 18 Item 402(b) and (c) require a company to provide both a Summary Compensation Table and an  
 19 Option/SAR Grants table identifying the compensation of the named executive officers – the  
 20 Company's CEO and its next four most highly paid executives. Item 402 requires particularized  
 21 disclosures involving a company's stock option grants in the last fiscal year. In the summary  
 22 compensation table, the issuer must identify in a column "other annual compensation" received  
 23 by the named executives that is not properly categorized as salary or bonus, including any  
 24 "[a]bove market or preferential earnings on restricted stock, options, SARs or deferred  
 25 compensation" paid to the officer during the period. Item 402(b)(2)(iii)(C)(2). In the option  
 26 grant table, the issuer must identify in a column "[t]he per-share exercise or base price of the  
 27 options. . . . If such exercise or base price is less than the market price of the underlying security



1 on the date of grant, a separate, adjoining column shall be added showing market price on the  
2 date of grant. . . .” Item 402(c)(2)(iv).

3 283. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb caused Getty Images to  
4 violate SEC regulations by failing to disclose that the Company’s named executive officers had  
5 been granted options with exercise prices below the market value on the date the Board or  
6 Compensation Committee approved the grant.

7 **Violations of IRS Rules and Regulations**

8 284. During the relevant period, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb  
9 further caused Getty Images to violate IRS rules and regulations due to its improper accounting  
10 for the backdated stock options. As a result, the Company’s tax liabilities were understated,  
11 exposing Getty Images to potential amounts owed for back taxes, penalties and interest to the  
12 IRS for improperly reporting compensation.

13 285. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb caused the Company to  
14 violate Section 162(m), which generally limits a publicly traded company’s tax deductions for  
15 compensation paid to each of its named executive officers to \$1 million unless the pay is  
16 determined to be “performance-based.” In order for compensation to be performance-based, the  
17 Compensation Committee must have set pre-established and objective performance goals. The  
18 goals must then be approved by the shareholders. Section 162(m) defines stock options as  
19 performance-based provided they are issued at an exercise price that is no less than the fair  
20 market value of the stock on the date of the grant. Accordingly, properly issued stock options do  
21 not have to be taken into account in calculating whether an executive’s compensation has  
22 exceeded the \$1 million compensation cap.

23 286. Section 162(m), known as the \$1 million rule, was enacted in 1993 in order to tie  
24 top executives’ soaring pay packages more closely to a company’s performance. This change in  
25 the tax law turned compensation practices for a company’s top executives away from straight  
26 salary-based compensation to performance-based compensation, including stock options.  
27 According to former SEC Chairman Harvey Pitt: “What [162[m]] did was create incentives to

1 find other forms of compensation so people could get over the \$1 million threshold without  
2 running afoul of the code.”

3 287. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb caused Getty Images to  
4 violate Section 162(m) by providing backdated options to the Company’s named executive  
5 officers, which were granted with exercise prices that were less than the fair market value of the  
6 stock on the date of the grant. As a result, all of the income resulting from the exercise of the  
7 options must be included for purposes of calculating whether the named executive’s  
8 compensation exceeds the \$1 million cap for federal tax purposes.

9 288. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb further caused the Company  
10 to violate IRS rules and regulations in order to avoid having to withhold income and FICA tax  
11 from its executives and employees upon the exercise of Getty Images’ stock options by  
12 improperly accounting for its Nonqualified Stock Options (“NSOs”) as Incentive Stock Options  
13 (“ISOs”).

14 289. ISOs are a form of equity compensation that may be provided to a company’s  
15 employees. ISOs are required to be granted at an exercise price that is no less than the fair  
16 market value of the stock on the date of the grant and are entitled to preferential tax treatment as  
17 they are not subject to income tax upon exercise of the options but only upon sale of the stock  
18 (except for the possible imposition of alternative minimum tax on the option spread at the time of  
19 exercise). Stock options that do not qualify as ISOs are considered to be NSOs. NSOs are not  
20 entitled to preferential treatment as they are subject to income tax and FICA withholding upon  
21 exercise. As a result, a company that fails to withhold income tax and/or FICA upon the exercise  
22 of NSOs by its employees would be liable for the amount of the income tax and FICA that the  
23 company failed to withhold upon exercise of the options, in addition to interest and penalties.

24 290. By improperly treating its backdated options as ISOs, Defendants Getty, Klein,  
25 Sporborg, Bailey and Garb failed to provide proper income tax and FICA withholdings upon the  
26 exercise of its options by its executives and employees in violation of IRS rules and regulations.  
27

291. The chart below illustrates Getty Images' false and misleading fiscal and quarterly financial results which materially understated its compensation expenses and thus overstated its earnings:

Fiscal Year	Reported Earnings (Loss)	Reported Basic Earnings (Loss) Per Share
1999	(\$67.833 million)	(\$1.94)
2000	(\$7.901 million)	(\$0.32)
2001	(\$95.312 million)	(\$1.84)
2002	\$21.468 million	\$0.40
2003	\$64.017 million	\$1.16
2004	\$106.65 million	\$1.81
2005	\$149.703 million	\$2.43

292. Meanwhile, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb were causing the Company to grant them hundreds of thousands of stock options, which were backdated or misdated. As such, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb, in violation of GAAP, did not account for the significant and material amount in compensation expenses as to the aforementioned stock option grants, thereby overstating earnings and earnings per share.

#### **DEFENDANTS' BREACHES OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES**

293. In a misguided effort to attract and retain employees in a competitive environment, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb exceeded the bounds of the law and legitimate business judgment by perpetrating their backdating scheme. Their misconduct was unjustifiable and constituted a gross breach of their fiduciary duties as officers and/or directors of the Company. Specifically, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb breached their fiduciary duties by:

- a. colluding with each other to backdate stock option grants;
- b. colluding with each other to violate GAAP and Section 162(m);
- c. colluding with each other to produce and disseminate false financial statements to Getty Images shareholders and the market that improperly recorded and accounted

1 for the backdated option grants and concealed the improper backdating of stock  
2 options; and

- 3 d. colluding with each other to file false proxy statements, false financial statements,  
4 and false Form 4s in order to conceal the improper backdating of stock options.

5 294. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb's foregoing misconduct was  
6 not, and could not have been, an exercise of good faith business judgment. Rather, it was  
7 intended to, and did, unduly benefit defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle,  
8 Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von  
9 Bargen and Woodhouse at the expense of the Company.

10 295. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and  
11 Garb's foregoing breaches of fiduciary duties, the Company has sustained millions of dollars in  
12 damages, including, but not limited to, the additional compensation expenses and tax liabilities  
13 the Company will be required to incur, the loss of funds paid to the Company upon the exercise  
14 of stock options resulting from the difference between the fair market value of the stock option  
15 on the true date of grant and the price that was actually paid as a result of the backdated stock  
16 option grant, the costs associated with the Company's internal investigation, costs and expenses  
17 incurred in connection with the Company's restatement of historical financial results, and costs  
18 and expenses incurred in connection with the SEC investigation of the Company.

19 296. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe,  
20 Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargen and Woodhouse  
21 have exercised numerous backdated options at improperly low prices and have then sold the  
22 shares for substantial profits. Consequently, these defendants have been unjustly enriched by  
23 garnering millions of dollars in illicit profits and depriving the Company of millions of dollars in  
24 payments that the Company should have received upon exercise of the options.

#### 25 **DERIVATIVE AND DEMAND EXCUSED ALLEGATIONS**

26 297. Plaintiff brings this action derivatively in the right and for the benefit of the  
27 Company to redress the Individual Defendants' breaches of fiduciary duties, unjust enrichment,



1 statutory violations, and/or other violations.

2 298. Plaintiff is an owner of Getty Images common stock and was an owner of Getty  
3 Images common stock at times relevant hereto.

4 299. Plaintiff will adequately and fairly represent the interests of the Company and its  
5 shareholders in enforcing and prosecuting its rights.

6 300. As a result of the facts set forth herein, Plaintiff has not made any demand on  
7 Getty Images' Board of Directors to institute this action against the Individual Defendants. Such  
8 demand would be a futile and useless act because the Board is incapable of making an  
9 independent and disinterested decision to institute and vigorously prosecute this action.

10 301. At the time this action was commenced, the Board consisted of seven directors:  
11 defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb and directors Alan G. Spoon and Michael A.  
12 Stein. Five out of the seven directors -- a majority of the board -- received and/or approved  
13 backdated options. Thus, the Board is incapable of making an independent and disinterested  
14 decision to institute and vigorously prosecute this action.

15 302. The following chart summarizes the positions of certain directors during the  
16 relevant period:

17 18 19 Director	20 21 22 Recipient of Backdated Options	23 24 25 Compensation Committee Member During relevant period	26 27 28 Stock Option Committee Member During relevant period	29 30 31 Audit Committee Member During the relevant period
Getty	x			
Klein	x		x	
Sporborg	x	x		x
Bailey		x		x
Garb		x		x

32 303. The following directors are incapable of independently and disinterestedly  
33 considering a demand to commence and vigorously prosecute this action:

34 **Getty**

35 304. During the relevant period, Defendant Getty received 915,000 backdated options.

1 Thus, Defendant Getty is directly interested in the improperly backdated stock option grants  
2 complained of herein. Also, as a co-founder of the Company and Chairman of the Board,  
3 Defendant Getty knowingly and deliberately participated in and approved the improper  
4 backdating of stock options, as alleged herein, and therefore is substantially likely to be held  
5 liable for the misconduct complained of herein.

6 305. Because of his knowing participation in the backdating scheme, Getty knowingly  
7 and deliberately participated in and approved the Company's filing of false financial statements  
8 and other false SEC filings, as alleged herein, and knowingly and deliberately participated in and  
9 approved the Company's violations of GAAP and Section 162(m), as alleged herein, and  
10 therefore is substantially likely to be held liable for the misconduct complained of herein.  
11 Moreover, by colluding with the other defendants who received backdated options, as alleged  
12 herein, Getty has demonstrated that he is unable or unwilling to act independently of these other  
13 defendants.

14 306. Moreover, in connection with the proxy statements dated April 7, 2000, April 6,  
15 2001 and April 19, 2002, Getty knowingly and intentionally misrepresented Getty Images'  
16 compensation practices while simultaneously seeking shareholder approval of the stock option  
17 plans under which Getty and others backdated stock options and seeking shareholder approval to  
18 increase the authorized number of Company shares allowed under the stock incentive plans in  
19 order to continue the backdating scheme.

20 307. Defendant Getty is also directly interested in the stock option backdating scheme  
21 because he received \$76,183,332.60 in illegal proceeds from his sale of Getty Images stock, a  
22 significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock  
23 options.

24 **Klein**

25 308. Defendant Klein is a recipient of 1,317,000 backdated options. Thus, he is  
26 directly interested in the improperly backdated stock option grants complained of herein. Also,  
27 as a director and CEO of the Company, Klein knowingly and deliberately participated in and

1 approved the improper backdating of stock options, as alleged herein, and therefore is  
2 substantially likely to be held liable for the misconduct complained of herein.

3 309. Because of his knowing participation in the backdating scheme, Klein knowingly  
4 and deliberately participated in and approved the Company's filing of false financial statements  
5 and other false SEC filings, as alleged herein, and knowingly and deliberately participated in and  
6 approved the Company's violations of GAAP and Section 162(m), as alleged herein, and  
7 therefore is substantially likely to be held liable for the misconduct complained of herein.  
8 Moreover, by colluding with the other defendants who received backdated options and others, as  
9 alleged herein, Klein has demonstrated that he is unable or unwilling to act independently of  
10 those Defendants.

11 310. Furthermore, Klein's principal professional occupation is his position as CEO of  
12 the Company. In his position as CEO of the Company, Klein stands to earn hundreds of  
13 thousands of dollars in annual salary, bonuses, and other compensation, all of which must be  
14 approved by defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg, who currently serve as members of the  
15 Compensation Committee. In 2005, for his service as CEO, Klein received a salary of \$950,000,  
16 a bonus of \$691,600 and a grant of 350,000 stock options. Accordingly, Klein is incapable of  
17 independently and disinterestedly considering a demand to commence and vigorously prosecute  
18 this action against defendants Bailey, Garb and Sporborg.

19 311. Moreover, in connection with the proxy statements dated April 7, 2000, April 6,  
20 2001 and April 19, 2002, Klein knowingly and intentionally misrepresented Getty Images'  
21 compensation practices while simultaneously seeking shareholder approval of the stock option  
22 plans under which Klein and others backdated stock options and seeking shareholder approval to  
23 increase the authorized number of Company shares allowed under the stock incentive plans in  
24 order to continue the backdating scheme.

25 312. Defendant Klein is also directly interested in the stock option backdating scheme  
26 because he received \$92,852,893.80 in illegal proceeds from his sale of Getty Images stock, a  
27 significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock



options.

**Sporborg**

313. Sporborg is a recipient of at least 8,333 backdated stock options. Thus, he is directly interested in the improperly backdated stock option grants complained of herein. Also, as a member of the Compensation Committee as all relevant times hereto, Sporborg knowingly and deliberately participated in and approved the improper backdating of stock options, as alleged herein, and therefore is substantially likely to be held liable for the misconduct complained of herein

314. Also, as a member of the Audit Committee, Sporborg knowingly and deliberately participated in and knowingly approved the filing of false financial statements and other false SEC filings, as alleged herein, and knowingly and deliberately participated in and approved the Company's violations of GAAP and Section 162(m), as alleged herein, and therefore is substantially likely to be held liable for the misconduct complained of herein. Moreover, by colluding with the Defendants who received backdated options and others, as alleged herein, Sporborg has demonstrated that he is unable or unwilling to act independently of those Defendants.

315. Moreover, in connection with the proxy statements dated April 7, 2000, April 6, 2001 and April 19, 2002, Sporborg knowingly and intentionally misrepresented Getty Images' compensation practices while simultaneously seeking shareholder approval of the stock option plans under which Sporborg and others backdated stock options and seeking shareholder approval to increase the authorized number of Company shares allowed under the stock incentive plans in order to continue the backdating scheme.

316. Defendant Sporborg is also directly interested in the stock option backdating scheme because he received \$577,309.86 in illegal proceeds from his sale of Getty Images stock, a significant portion of which was obtained through the exercise of improperly backdated stock options.



**Bailey**

317. Bailey, as a member of the Compensation Committee as all relevant times hereto, knowingly and deliberately participated in and approved the improper backdating of stock options, as alleged herein, and as a member of the Audit Committee, Bailey knowingly and deliberately participated in and approved the filing of false financial statements and other false SEC filings, as alleged herein, and knowingly and deliberately participated in and approved the Company's violations of GAAP and Section 162(m), as alleged herein, and therefore is substantially likely to be held liable for the misconduct complained of herein. Moreover, by colluding with the Defendants who received backdated options and others, as alleged herein, Bailey has demonstrated that he is unable or unwilling to act independently of those Defendants.

318. Moreover, in connection with the proxy statements dated April 7, 2000, April 6, 2001 and April 19, 2002, Bailey knowingly and intentionally misrepresented Getty Images' compensation practices while simultaneously seeking shareholder approval of the stock option plans under Bailey and others backdated stock options and seeking shareholder approval to increase the authorized number of Company shares allowed under the stock incentive plans in order to continue the backdating scheme.

**Garb**

319. Garb, as a member of the Compensation Committee as all relevant times hereto, knowingly and deliberately participated in and approved the improper backdating of stock options, as alleged herein, and as a member of the Audit Committee, Garb knowingly and deliberately participated in and approved the filing of false financial statements and other false SEC filings, as alleged herein, and knowingly and deliberately participated in and approved the Company's violations of GAAP and Section 162(m), as alleged herein, and therefore is substantially likely to be held liable for the misconduct complained of herein. Moreover, by colluding with the Defendants who received backdated options and others, as alleged herein, Garb has demonstrated that he is unable or unwilling to act independently of those Defendants.

320. Moreover, in connection with the proxy statements dated April 7, 2000, April 6,

1 2001 and April 19, 2002, Garb knowingly and intentionally misrepresented Getty Images'  
2 compensation practices while simultaneously seeking shareholder approval of the stock option  
3 plans under Garb and others backdated stock options and seeking shareholder approval to  
4 increase the authorized number of Company shares allowed under the stock incentive plans in  
5 order to continue the backdating scheme.

6 **Other Conflicts**

7 321. Getty, Klein, Sporborg and defendant Evans-Lombe share a long-standing  
8 personal and professional relationship, especially with regard to their work at Hambros Bank  
9 Limited ("Hambros"). Getty joined Hambros in 1991, prior to founding Getty Images, and Klein  
10 served as a director and Manager of the media group. Moreover, Sporborg served as Hambros'  
11 Chairman and CEO prior to joining Getty Images, and Evans-Lombe held various finance related  
12 positions at Hambros. Accordingly, Getty, Klein, and Sporborg are incapable of independently  
13 and disinterestedly considering a demand to commence and vigorously prosecute this action  
14 against each other and Evans-Lombe.

15 **Backdating Is Not an Exercise of Valid Business Judgment**

16 322. Demand is also excused because the misconduct complained of herein was not,  
17 and could not have been, an exercise of good faith business judgment. As represented in Getty  
18 Images' proxy statements, the stated purpose of the Company's shareholder-approved stock  
19 option plan is to attract and retain employees by providing compensation that reflects the  
20 Company's stock performance and "align[s] the interests of executive[s] with those of the  
21 Stockholders by providing . . . [them] with a financial interest in the Company."

22 323. However, by granting options with backdated exercise prices, Defendants Klein,  
23 Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg undermined the purpose of the Company's shareholder-  
24 approved stock option plan by awarding employees compensation that had intrinsic value  
25 regardless of Getty Images' stock performance. In effect, this practice was nothing more than  
26 secret handouts to executives and employees at the expense of unsuspecting shareholders and the  
27 Company.

324. Defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg could have achieved the stated purpose of attracting and retaining “key executives” by granting them additional options under its incentive plan, or by granting options at a price less than the fair market value on the date of grant and simply disclosing and expensing these grants. Instead, Defendants Klein, Getty, Bailey, Garb and Sporborg backdated option grants in violation of the Company’s shareholder-approved stock option plan and improperly reported these grants in the Company’s and their own financial disclosures.

325. The practice of backdating stock options cannot be a valid exercise of business judgment because it has subjected Getty Images to potentially massive liability. Getty Images conducted an internal investigation concerning the historical backdating of option grants and admitted to backdating stock option grants. The SEC has also initiated its own investigation into the Company’s prior option grants. The Company also restated its previously issued financial statements due to errors in accounting for compensation expenses. Furthermore, Getty Images will likely suffer tax liabilities for the additional compensation they will have to expense as the result of backdated options, and it has tarnished its reputation in the investment community through this deliberate and calculated conduct.

### **COUNT I**

#### **Against Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb for**

#### **Violations of §10(b) and Rule 10b-5 of the Securities and Exchange Act**

326. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

327. Throughout the relevant period, defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb individually and in concert, directly and indirectly, by the use and means of instrumentalities of interstate commerce and/or of the mails, intentionally or recklessly employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud and engaged in acts, practices and a course of business which operated as a fraud and deceit upon the Company.

328. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb, as top executive officers



1 and/or directors of the Company, are liable as direct participants in the wrongs complained of  
 2 herein. Through their positions of control and authority as officers and/or directors of the  
 3 Company, defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb were able to and did control the  
 4 conduct complained of herein.

5 329. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb acted with scienter in that  
 6 they either had actual knowledge of the fraud set forth herein, or acted with reckless disregard  
 7 for the truth in that they failed to ascertain and to disclose the true facts, even though such facts  
 8 were available to them. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb were among the  
 9 senior management and/or directors of the Company and were therefore directly responsible for  
 10 the fraud alleged herein.

11 330. The Company relied upon defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb's  
 12 fraud in granting defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb options to purchase shares  
 13 of the Company's common stock, as alleged herein.

14 331. As a direct and proximate result of defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and  
 15 Garb's fraud, the Company has sustained millions of dollars in damages, including, but not  
 16 limited to, the additional compensation expenses and tax liabilities the Company will be required  
 17 to incur, the loss of funds paid to the Company upon the exercise of stock options resulting from  
 18 the difference between the fair market value of the stock option on the true date of grant and the  
 19 price that was actually paid as a result of the backdated stock option grant, the costs associated  
 20 with the Company's internal investigation, costs and expenses incurred in connection with the  
 21 Company's restatement of historical financial results, and costs and expenses incurred in  
 22 connection with the SEC investigation of the Company.

## 23 COUNT II

24 **Against Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb**

25 **for Violations of §14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act**

26 332. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set  
 27 forth above, as though fully set forth herein.



333. Rule 14-A-9, promulgated pursuant to § 14(a) of the Exchange Act, provides that no proxy statement shall contain “any statement which, at the time and in the light of the circumstances under which it is made, is false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or which omits to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein not false or misleading.” 17 C.F.R. §240.14-A-9.

334. The proxy statements described herein violated §14(a) and Rule 14-A-9 because defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb omitted material facts, including the fact that they were causing Getty Images to engage in a secret options backdating scheme, a fact which defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb were aware of and participated in from at least 1994.

335. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb knew that the proxy statements were materially false and misleading.

336. The misrepresentations and omissions in the proxy statements were material. The proxy statements were an essential link in the accomplishment of the continuation of Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb’s unlawful stock option backdating scheme, as revelations of the truth would have immediately thwarted a continuation of the shareholders’ endorsement of the directors’ positions, the executive officers’ compensation and the Company’s compensation policies.

337. The Company was damaged as a result of the material misrepresentations and omissions in the Proxy Statements.

### **COUNT III**

#### **Against Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb**

#### **For Violations of §20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act**

338. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

339. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb, by virtue of their positions with Getty Images and their specific acts, were, at the time of the wrongs alleged herein,

controlling persons of Getty Images within the meaning of §20(a) of the Exchange Act. They had the power and influence and exercised the same to cause Getty Images to engage in the illegal conduct and practices complained of herein.

#### COUNT IV

#### **Against Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb for Breach of Fiduciary Duty and/or Aiding and Abetting**

340. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

341. As alleged in detail herein, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb had a fiduciary duty to, among other things, refrain from unduly benefiting themselves and other Company insiders at the expense of the Company.

342. As alleged in detail herein, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb breached their fiduciary duties by, among other things, engaging in a scheme to grant backdated stock options to themselves and/or certain other officers and directors of the Company and cover up their misconduct.

343. In breach of their fiduciary duties of loyalty and good faith, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb agreed to and did participate with and/or aided and abetted one another in a deliberate course of action designed to divert corporate assets to themselves and/or other Company insiders.

344. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb's foregoing misconduct was not, and could not have been, an exercise of good faith business judgment. Rather, it was intended to and did, unduly benefit Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargen and Woodhouse at the expense of the Company.

345. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb's foregoing breaches of their fiduciary duties, the Company has sustained millions of dollars in damages, including, but not limited to, the additional compensation expenses and tax

liabilities the Company will be required to incur, the loss of funds paid to the Company upon the exercise of stock options resulting from the difference between the fair market value of the stock option on the true date of grant and the price that was actually paid as a result of the backdated stock option grant, the costs associated with the Company's internal investigation, costs and expenses incurred in connection with the Company's restatement of historical financial results, and costs and expenses incurred in connection with the SEC investigation of the Company.

### **COUNT V**

#### **Against Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargen and Woodhouse for Unjust Enrichment**

346. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

347. Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargen and Woodhouse were unjustly enriched by their receipt and retention of backdated stock option grants and the proceeds they received through exercising backdated stock options, as alleged herein and it would be unconscionable to allow them to retain the benefits thereof.

348. To remedy defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargen and Woodhouse's unjust enrichment, the Court should order them to disgorge to the Company all of the backdated stock options they received, including the proceeds of any such options that have been exercised, sold, pledged, or otherwise monetized.

### **COUNT VI**

#### **Against Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb for Constructive Fraud**

349. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

350. As corporate fiduciaries, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb

1 owed to Getty Images and its shareholders a duty of candor and full accurate disclosure  
2 regarding the true state of Getty Images' business and assets and their conduct with regard  
3 thereto.

4 351. As a result of the conduct complained of, Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg,  
5 Bailey and Garb made, or aided and abetted the making of, numerous misrepresentations to  
6 and/or concealed material facts from Getty Images' shareholders despite their duties to, *inter*  
7 *alia*, disclose the true facts regarding their stewardship of Getty Images. Thus they have  
8 committed constructive fraud and violated their duty of candor.

9 352. By reason of the foregoing, Getty Images has been damaged.

## 10 COUNT VII

### 11 **Against the Individual Defendants for Corporate Waste**

12 353. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set  
13 forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

14 354. As a result of the conduct described above, the Individual Defendants will be and  
15 have been unjustly enriched at the expense of Getty Images, in the form of unjustified salaries,  
16 benefits, bonuses, stock option grants, and other emoluments of office.

17 355. All the payments and benefits provided to the Individual Defendants were at the  
18 expense of Getty Images. The Company received no benefit from these payments, and Getty  
19 Images was damaged by such payments.

20 356. Certain defendants sold Getty Images stock for a profit during the period of  
21 deception, misusing confidential non-public corporate information. These defendants should be  
22 required to disgorge the gains which they have and/or will otherwise unjustly obtain at the  
23 expense of Getty Images. A constructive trust for the benefit of the Company should be imposed  
24 thereon.



**COUNT VIII**

**Against the Klein, Getty, Garb and Sporborg**

**for Insider Selling and Misappropriation of Information**

357. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges each and every allegation set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

358. At the time of their stock sales, defendants Klein, Getty, Garb and Sporborg knew that the Company's financial results were false and misleading. These Defendants' sales of Getty Images common stock while in possession and control of this material adverse nonpublic information was a breach of their fiduciary duties of good faith, honesty and loyalty.

359. Since the use of the Company's proprietary information for their own gain constitutes a breach of the fiduciary owed by defendants Klein, Getty, Garb and Sporborg to the Company, Plaintiff, on behalf of the Company, are entitled to the imposition of a trust on any profits these Defendants obtained thereby.

360. Plaintiff, as shareholder of Getty Images, seeks damages and other relief for Getty Images.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment as follows:

A. Against Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb and in favor of the Company for the amount of damages sustained by the Company as a result of their misconduct;

B. Ordering defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargen and Woodhouse to disgorge to the Company all of the backdated stock options they received, including the proceeds of any such options that have been exercised, sold, pledged, or otherwise monetized and imposing a constructive trust thereon;

C. Granting appropriate equitable relief to remedy Defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Bailey and Garb's breaches of fiduciary duties;

1 D. Directing the Company to take all necessary actions to reform and improve its  
 2 corporate governance and internal control procedures to comply with applicable law, including,  
 3 but not limited to, putting forward for a shareholder vote resolutions for amendments to the  
 4 Company's By-Laws or Articles of Incorporation and taking such other action as may be  
 5 necessary to place before shareholders for a vote adoption of the following Corporate  
 6 Governance policies:

7 (a) a proposal requiring that the office of CEO of the Company and Chairman  
 8 of the Board be permanently held by separate individuals and that the Chairman of the Board  
 9 meets rigorous "independent" standards;

10 (b) a proposal to strengthen the Board's supervision of operations and develop  
 11 and implement procedures for greater shareholder input into the policies and guidelines of the  
 12 Board;

13 (c) appropriately test and then strengthen the internal audit and control  
 14 functions;

15 (d) rotate independent auditing firms every five years;

16 (e) control and limit insider stock selling and the terms and timing of stock  
 17 option grants; and

18 (f) reform executive compensation;

19 E. Ordering an accounting of all stock option grants made to defendants Getty,  
 20 Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner,  
 21 Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargaen and Woodhouse, including, but not limited to,  
 22 the dates of the grants, the amounts of the grants, the value of the grants, the recipients of the  
 23 grants, the dates the stock options were exercised, as well as the disposition of any proceeds  
 24 received by defendants Getty, Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe,  
 25 Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner, Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Bargaen and Woodhouse via  
 26 sale or other exercise of the grants;

27 F. Ordering all contracts which provide for stock option grants to defendants Getty,

1 Klein, Sporborg, Albers, Beyle, Blackwell, Evans-Lombe, Ferguson, Gurke, Huebner,  
2 Miskimens, O'Neill, Powell, Roling, von Barga and Woodhouse and were entered into during  
3 the relevant period should, therefore, be rescinded, with all sums paid under such contracts  
4 returned to the Company, and all such executory contracts cancelled and declared void;

5 G. Awarding to Plaintiff the costs and disbursements of the action, including  
6 reasonable attorneys' fees, accountants' and experts' fees, costs, and expenses; and

7 H. Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

8 **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

9 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

10  
11 Dated: August 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

12 LAW OFFICES OF CLIFFORD A. CANTOR, P.C.

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VERIFICATION

I, TARA KAO, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an associate of the law firm of Schiffrin Barroway Topaz & Kessler, LLP, counsel for plaintiff Richard B. Edmonds in the above-entitled action. I have read the foregoing Amended Shareholder Verified Derivative Complaint and know the contents thereof. I am informed and believe the matters therein are true and on that ground allege that the matters stated therein are true.

2. I make this Verification because plaintiff Richard B. Edmonds is absent from the County of Delaware, Pennsylvania where I maintain my office.

Executed this 27 day of August, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Tara Kao  
TARA P. KAO



**DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

I, TARA KAO, the undersigned, declare:

1. That declarant is and was, at all times herein mentioned, a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of Delaware, Pennsylvania, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to or interested in the within action; that declarant's business address is 280 King of Prussia Road, Radnor, Pennsylvania 19087.

2. That on August 27, 2007, declarant served the following AMENDED SHAREHOLDER VERIFIED DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT via the CM/ECF System to the parties listed on the attached service list.

3. That there is regular communication between the parties.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 2007, at Radnor, Pennsylvania.

/s/  
TARA KAO

GETTY IMAGES, INC.  
Service List – August 27, 2007  
Page 1 of 1

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